Serial No.	From or to whom.	—	Date.	Subject.	Page.
			1906.		
9	The Governor of the Transvaal.	Telegram, 1.	October 4 (Rec. Oct. 4.)	Reports on the health of British Central Africa natives on the Premier Mine, and requests an early decision as to whether recruiting from British Central Africa may be continued.	13
10	To the Commissioner of the British Central Africa Protectorate.	Telegram, 20.	October 22	Enquires as to the death-rate amongst Northern Angoni natives as compared with that of natives recruited from other districts.	13
11	The Commissioner of the British Central Africa Protectorate.	Telegram, 37.	October 29 (Rec. Oct. 29.)	Furnishes particulars of death-rate amongst Northern Angoni natives as compared with that of natives recruited from other districts.	13
12	The Governor of the Transvaal.	Telegram, 2.	November 2 (Rec. Nov. 2.)	Reports that the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association have arranged with the Premier Diamond Company to recruit 500 British Central Africa natives for them if recruiting is allowed, and enquires whether there is any objection; requests final decision as to recruiting from British Central Africa and North-Eastern Rhodesia.	14
13	Ditto	—	October 15 (Rec. Nov. 3.)	Transmits copy of a letter from the Secretary for Native Affairs enclosing a report by the Pass Commissioner and a medical history of the British Central Africa natives employed on the Premier Diamond Mine from May to the end of September, 1906.	14
14	To the Commissioner of the British Central Africa Protectorate.	Telegram, 21.	November 8	Informs him that the recruitment of 1,000 additional natives from the British Central Africa Protectorate and 500 from North-Eastern Rhodesia has been approved as a further experiment on the conditions specified.	16
15	To the Governor of the Transvaal.	Telegram, 5.	November 8	Approves the recruitment of 1,000 British Central Africa and 500 North-Eastern Rhodesia natives for work on the gold mines, on the conditions specified, and states that the Commissioner, British Central Africa, has been so informed.	16
16	The Commissioner of the British Central Africa Protectorate.	Telegram, 40.	November 12 (Rec. Nov. 13.)	Reports that the local representative of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association has been advised of the contents of No. 14, and that the recruiting season finishes on December 31st.	16
			1907.		
17	The Commissioner of the British Central Africa Protectorate.	Telegram, 5.	February 12 (Rec. Feb. 12.)	Enquires whether the recruitment of British Central Africa natives for the Premier Diamond Mine will be permitted during the season commencing July 1st, 1906.	16
18	To the Governor of the Transvaal.	Telegram, 1.	February 20	Gives purport of No. 17, and asks for figures as to mortality and sickness among British Central Africa natives employed in the Premier and other mines.	17

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Serial No.	From or to whom.	—	Date.	Subject.	Page.
			1907.		
19	The Governor of the Transvaal.	Telegram A.	March 4 (Rec. Mar. 4.)	Furnishes particulars of mortality amongst British Central Africa natives on the Premier and other mines in the Transvaal.	17
20	Ditto	—	March 3 (Rec. Mar. 23.)	Forwards copy of a memorandum from the Pass Commissioner on the health of British Central Africa natives on the Premier and other mines, together with returns, and calls attention to the improvement in the rate of mortality.	17
21	The Commissioner of British Central Africa Protectorate.	—	February 4 (Rec. Mar. 25.)	Forwards report from the Superintendent of Native Affairs on a batch of 500 natives recruited for the Premier Diamond Mine and enquires whether further recruiting of British Central Africa natives is to be permitted between July and December, 1907.	25
22	To the Governor of the Transvaal.	—	March 28	Acknowledges receipt of No. 20, and proposes to await returns of mortality among British Central Africa natives for the first three months of the current year before deciding whether further recruitment should be permitted.	26
23	Ditto	—	April 5	Transmits copy of No. 21 and enquires, with reference to the enclosure in No. 20, whether anything is known of the apparent failure of fifteen of the natives to reach the Transvaal.	26
23A	The High Commissioner for South Africa.	—	March 30 (Rec. Apr. 20.)	Forwards copy of correspondence with the Resident Commissioner and Administrator on the subject of native mortality in Southern Rhodesia mines for the quarter ended September 30, 1906.	27
24	The Governor of the Transvaal.	—	June 3 (Rec. June 22.)	Forwards, in reply to No. 23, Minute from Ministers enclosing a statement showing the number of British Central Africa natives recruited for the Premier Diamond Mine for the season 1906–7, and pointing out that the wastage *en route* amounted to 27.	39
25	To the Governor of the Transvaal.	—	July 3	Acknowledges receipt of No. 24 and enquires as to the high rate of mortality *en route*, why fourteen were rejected after the journey began, and why two failed to arrive at Johannesburg.	40
26	The Acting Commissioner of the British Central Africa Protectorate.	Telegram, 17.	July 10 (Rec. July 10.)	Enquires whether any decision has been arrived at with regard to recruiting for the Transvaal mines, as 2,000 or 3,000 natives are anxious to be recruited and would probably proceed of their own accord if recruiting is not permitted.	40
27	To the Governor of the Transvaal.	Telegram, 1.	July 12	Requests that the mortality statistics asked for in No. 22 may be telegraphed, and informs him that the Commissioner of the British Central Africa Protectorate wishes to know whether recruiting is desired this year.	40

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Serial No.	From or to whom.	—	Date.	Subject.	Page.
			1907.		
28	The Governor of the Transvaal.	Telegram, A.	July 15 (Rec. July 15.)	Submits request of Ministers that recruiting for the Witwatersrand Gold Mines from all tropical areas may be resumed on the conditions indicated, and furnishes statistics of mortality among tropical natives from July 1st, 1906, to April 30th, 1907.	41
29	To the Acting Commissioner of the British Central Africa Protectorate.	Telegram, 19.	July 24	Intimates willingness to allow the employment of natives of the British Central Africa Protectorate and North-Eastern Rhodesia for surface work only on the gold mines and the Premier Diamond Mine.	41
30	To the Governor of the Transvaal.	Telegram, 1.	July 24	Ditto	41
31	The Governor of the Transvaal.	—	July 15 (Rec. Aug. 3.)	Forwards copy of a Minute from Ministers, enclosing a letter from the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association requesting information as to the future policy of the Government regarding the recruitment of native labour in the tropical regions of South Africa north of latitude 22°, and enquires whether the territories referred to may be opened up under the special conditions recommended.	42
32	The High Commissioner for South Africa.	—	July 15 (Rec. Aug. 3.)	Transmits copies of correspondence with the Resident Commissioner on the subject of mortality amongst native labourers in Southern Rhodesia mines.	47
33	To the Governor of the Transvaal.	—	August 15	Acknowledges No. 31 and refers to No. 30; requests him to inform Ministers why the Secretary of State did not feel justified in permitting the renewal of recruiting of natives from the British Central Africa Protectorate for underground work.	67
34	To the Commissioner of the British Central Africa Protectorate.	—	August 16	Encloses correspondence received from the High Commissioner; states that the condition of affairs is viewed with grave concern and requests full report from the Acting Commissioner of North-Eastern Rhodesia, on the questions of recruiting through the recognised agency and the emigration of independent labourers.	67
35	To the High Commissioner for South Africa.	—	August 16	Comments on the high rate of mortality among native labourers on the Southern Rhodesia Mines, and trusts that the efforts now being made will result in such improvement as will avoid the necessity of restricting the sources of supply; requests a report from the Administrator, North-Western Rhodesia, on the measures taken to supervise the recruits obtained by the Bureau, and on any suggestions for dealing with the emigration of natives seeking work independently of any organised agency.	68

Serial No.	From or to whom.	—	Date.	Subject.	Page.
			1907.		
36	The Governor of the Transvaal.	Telegram, A.	August 22 (Rec. Aug. 22.)	Transmits summary of Minute from Ministers regretting decision in No. 30, which does not help matters, as men for surface work are not required; and pointing out that natives from British Central Africa are likely to come down on their own account.	68
37	To the Governor of the Transvaal.	Telegram I.	August 29	Observes that the Secretary of State feels difficulty in altering his opinion in view of high mortality among natives, and must await the receipt of the Governor's despatch.	69
38	The Governor of the Transvaal.	—	August 26 (Rec. Sept. 14.)	Forwards minute from Ministers urging reconsideration of the prohibition to recruit native labour for underground work on the Witwatersrand gold mines from the British Central Africa Protectorate and North - Eastern Rhodesia.	69
39	The Deputy Governor of the Transvaal.	—	September 9 (Rec. Sept. 28.)	Forwards copy of a minute from Ministers furnishing, in reply to No. 25, information as to the high rate of mortality of certain British Central Africa natives *en route* to the Premier Diamond Mine.	70
40	Ditto	—	September 9 (Rec. Sept. 28.)	Forwards copy of a minute from Ministers enclosing correspondence between the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association and the Premier Diamond Mining Company which Company does not wish to avail itself of the offer of 2,000 men for surface work.	71
41	To the Governor of the Transvaal.	—	September 28	Submits remarks, in reply to No. 38, with respect to the employment of natives from British Central Africa; expresses opinion that mine owners should endeavour to remove the objections to underground labour, and states that if this is done assent to recruiting in British Central Africa and North-Eastern Rhodesia will not be refused, subject to the observance of certain health regulations.	72
42	Ditto	—	October 10	Conveys suggestions of the Director of Native Affairs of the British Central Africa Protectorate that natives from British Central Africa should be restricted to day shifts, and that recruiting should be confined, in the first instance, to those who have already been employed, and requests that Ministers may take the suggestions made into consideration.	74
43	Sir A. Sharpe ...	—	November 3	Submits proposals for the employment in Rhodesia of large numbers of idle natives in the Nyasaland Protectorate.	74

Serial No.	From or to whom.	—	Date.	Subject.	Page.
			1907.		
44	To Mr. J. C. Casson	—	November 12	Requests to be furnished with a report on his visits to the mines of Southern Rhodesia with respect to the conditions under which the natives of the Nyasaland Protectorate work, and with any suggestions for improving the conditions under which they find their way to Southern Rhodesia.	76
45	The Acting Commissioner of the British Central Africa Protectorate.	—	October 9 (Rec. Nov. 16.)	Submits remarks on the question of finding work for the large number of natives available, and suggests their employment in Southern Rhodesia.	76
46	The Acting Commissioner of the British Central Africa Protectorate.	—	October 16 (Rec. Nov. 25.)	Encloses correspondence received from the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, showing, *inter alia*, the deaths of British Central Africa natives employed on the Premier Mine during May, June, and July.	77
47	Mr. J. C. Casson ...	—	November 25	Submits report on his recent inquiry into the conditions of labour of natives at Nyasaland in Southern Rhodesia, together with suggestions for their future control and for improving the conditions under which they find their way to Southern Rhodesia.	79
48	To the Acting Governor of the Nyasaland Protectorate.	—	December 3	Refers to No. 45; submits remarks as to the grounds upon which the application of the Rhodesia Native Labour Bureau for permission to recruit in Nyasaland was refused last year.	84
49	To the Governor of the Transvaal.	—	December 6	States that the death-rate among the Nyasaland Protectorate natives employed on the Premier Mine for the six months to August, 1907, was 113 per 1,000 per annum.	85
50	To Sir A. Sharpe ...	—	December 10	Transmits, with remarks, copy of No. 47, and requests views on the points raised and generally on the proposals contained in Mr. Casson's report.	85
51	To Mr. J. C. Casson	—	December 10	Conveys thanks for the Report submitted in No. 47.	86
52	Mr. J. C. Casson ...	—	December 10	Expresses opinion that the death-rate, if taken for a whole year, will work out at a considerably lower figure; points out that his suggestion was confined to natives who had already served a period of one year in the mines.	87
53	Sir A. Sharpe ...	—	December 13	Submits remarks on No. 47	87
54	The Governor of the Transvaal.	—	December 9 (Rec. Dec. 28.)	Transmits copy of a minute from Ministers on the subject of the recruiting of native labour from the Nyasaland Protectorate and North-Eastern Rhodesia, and on the high mortality among natives from tropical areas.	89

Serial No.	From or to whom.	—	Date.	Subject.	Page.
			1907.		
55	The Acting Governor of the Nyasaland Protectorate.	—	November 15 (Rec. Dec. 30.)	Reports on the extent of emigration during 1906–7, and submits proposals for regulating the exodus to South Africa.	93
			1908.		
56	Ditto	—	November 20 1907 (Rec. Jan. 6, 1908.)	Transmits, with remarks, copy of a Report by the Acting-Administrator, North-Eastern Rhodesia, dealing with the conditions under which natives engage for work in Southern Rhodesia.	95
57	To the Governor of the Transvaal.	—	January 15	Proposes to await reply to No. 49, and promised further communication from Ministers before replying to No. 54, and adds that it will be impossible to authorize resumption of recruiting from the Nyasaland Protectorate and North-Eastern Rhodesia unless there are strong grounds for believing that the death-rate can be substantially and permanently reduced.	101
58	Sir A. Sharpe ...	—	January 16	Reports communication with the British South Africa Company on the subject of Nyasaland labour for Southern Rhodesia; submits remarks on the proposals in No. 56 and urges the placing of all matters concerning "alien" labour in Southern Rhodesia under Government control.	101
59	Sir A. Sharpe ...	—	January 28	Forwards copy of a letter from the British South Africa Company accepting the proposed conditions, and suggests that the experiment should now be carried out on the lines indicated.	102
60	The Governor of the Transvaal.	—	January 20 (Rec. Feb. 8.)	Forwards minute from Ministers enclosing report of the Medical Board of Enquiry into the high mortality amongst native labourers on the Premier Diamond Mine, and stating that steps are being taken to carry out the recommendations made.	104
61	The Acting Governor of the Nyasaland Protectorate.	—	January 17 (Rec. Feb. 22.)	Transmits copy of a letter from the representative of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association in Central East Africa, and submitting proposals for a *modus operandi* between the Government and the Association, and remarks thereupon.	105
62	The High Commissioner for South Africa.	—	February 10 (Rec. Feb. 29.)	Forwards copy of correspondence with the Administrator, Salisbury, and the Resident Commissioner, relative to the establishment of a Government Labour Bureau to undertake the introduction, distribution, and supervision of labour from Central African territories north of the Zambesi.	113

Serial No.	From or to whom.	—	Date.	Subject.	Page.
			1908.		
63	The High Commissioner for South Africa.	—	February 10 (Rec. Feb. 29.)	Reports on the action of the Southern Rhodesia authorities in promulgating regulations governing the movement of natives from the Zambesi Valley through Southern Rhodesia to the Transvaal, and consequent friction with the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association.	115
64	To the Acting Governor of the Nyasaland Protectorate.	Telegram, 5.	March 2	Approves, subject to the concurrence of the High Commissioner, an agreement with Mr. Milton for regulating the existing labour traffic on the lines suggested in No. 56, and the experimental recruiting in the meanwhile of 1,000 men on the conditions indicated.	118
65	To the Governor of the Transvaal.	Telegram, 1.	March 7	Regrets, in reply to No. 60, that resumption of recruiting from Nyasaland cannot be authorised in existing circumstances; observes that the argument that natives will find their way to the Rand of their own accord appears, from No. 63, to have lost much of its force.	118
66	The Governor of the Transvaal.	Telegram, 1.	March 10 (Rec. Mar. 10.)	Points out that the argument as to natives finding their own way to the Rand is not affected by No. 63, and enquires whether, before communicating No. 65 to Ministers or to the Governor of Nyasaland, it is desired to make any change in it in the light of these observations.	119
67	To the Governor of the Transvaal.	Telegram, 1.	March 12	Regrets that the last sentence of No. 65 did not convey its meaning more clearly; and makes further observations.	119
68	Ditto	Telegram, 2.	March 26	States the considerations which were present to the mind of the Secretary of State when he conveyed the decision (in No. 65) not to allow resumption of recruiting in Nyasaland under present conditions.	119

SOUTH AFRICA.

CORRESPONDENCE

RELATING TO THE

RECRUITMENT OF LABOUR IN THE NYASALAND PROTECTORATE

FOR THE

TRANSVAAL AND SOUTHERN RHODESIA MINES.

No. 1.

THE COMMISSIONER OF THE BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA PROTECTORATE to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

(Received 8.40 p.m., 20th June, 1906.)

TELEGRAM.

[*Answered by No.* 2.]

19th June. No. 24. Please telegraph whether recruiting for Transvaal is to continue or not. It is due to recommence 1st July, and recruiters are now making necessary preparations. Death-rate, which is undoubtedly high, is only objection I know of, but if supervised emigration is stopped natives will without doubt continue to go by land on their own account to districts to the south of Zambesi.—SHARPE.

No. 2.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE to THE COMMISSIONER OF THE BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

(Sent 6.10 p.m., 25th June, 1906.)

TELEGRAM.

25th June. No. 13. Your telegram, No. 24, 19th June.* Recruiting is not to be continued unless mortality returns of British Central Africa natives on the mines for the year ending 30th June show a material decrease. I am asking Governor, Transvaal, to telegraph these returns as soon as they are ready, and recruiters should not be allowed to recommence operations pending my decision.—ELGIN.

No. 3.

THE GOVERNOR OF THE TRANSVAAL to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

(Received 12.25 p.m., 7th August, 1906.)

TELEGRAM.

[*Answered by No.* 5.]

6th August, A. Mortality returns per thousand per annum of British Central

* No. 1.

Africa natives are as follows: July, 1904, to June, 1905, 118; July, 1905, to June, 1906, 166; January, 1906, to June, 1906, 135. Total death-rate for year ended 30th June amongst native labourers from all tropical areas was 99; from other than tropical areas, 33; and total death-rate from every source, 40. Returns only just received which permit review of the whole question, which is being dealt with by despatch.

For reasons given in despatch,* I think recruiting might be allowed in British Central Africa up to 1,000 labourers, on condition that they arrive at mines not earlier than October, and are employed for a term of probation whilst acclimatising on other than underground work. This recommendation is based on satisfactory results of experiment of employing British Central African natives on Premier Diamond Mine. If you agree I recommend that in addition to the 1,000 above mentioned a further 1,000 should be allowed to be recruited for the Premier Diamond Mine only. Please do not come to an adverse decision until you have received my despatch.—SELBORNE.

No. 4.

THE GOVERNOR OF THE TRANSVAAL to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

(Received 12.44 p.m., 7th August, 1906.)

TELEGRAM.

[*Answered by No.* 5.]

6th August. B. Referring to my telegram 6th August, A.† Early decision is also urgently required as to whether His Majesty's Government desire to prevent further recruiting of native labourers from Portuguese territory and Southern Rhodesia north of latitude 22.

Mortality rates are as follows:—

Mozambique natives July, 1904, to June, 1905, 128 per 1,000 per annum; July, 1905, to June, 1906, 65; January, 1906, to June, 1906, 59.

Quilimane natives July, 1904, to June, 1905, 163; July, 1905, to June, 1906, 71; January, 1906, to June, 1906, 34.

Southern Rhodesia, *i.e.*, Matabele and Mashona natives only, July, 1904, to June, 1905, 118; July, 1905, to June, 1906, 79; January, 1906, to June, 1906, 39.

In view of satisfactory decrease of mortality among natives from these territories, I recommend that recruiting from them be not interfered with, subject, of course, to understanding that natives recruited arrive in early summer and that all precautions continue to be taken to safeguard their health.

I should be glad of early reply by telegram as Witwatersrand Native Labour Association inform me that they wish to recommence recruiting operations in territories named in this telegram, with a view to natives arriving towards end of September unless Government gives notice of intention of prohibiting them from entering Transvaal.—SELBORNE.

No. 5.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE to THE GOVERNOR OF THE TRANSVAAL.

(Sent 5.57 p.m., 10th August, 1906.)

TELEGRAM.

10th August. No. 3. Referring to your telegrams, 6th August, A and B,‡ in view of decrease of mortality amongst natives from Portuguese territory and Southern Rhodesia north of latitude 22, will not object to continuance of recruiting in these areas provided that all precautions are taken to safeguard health of those recruited. I await your despatch before deciding on question of recruiting from British Central Africa, but I should be glad to receive explanation by mail, if

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* No. 6. † No. 3. ‡ Nos. 3 and 4.

it has not been sent already, showing reasons for continued exceptional mortality amongst natives from latter territory.—ELGIN.

No. 6.

THE GOVERNOR OF THE TRANSVAAL to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

(Received August 25, 1906.)

[*See No.* 8.]

MY LORD, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, August 6, 1906.

WITH reference to previous correspondence on the subject of the recruiting of native labourers from districts north of latitude 22 for work on the Witwatersrand mines, I have the honour to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a despatch from the Acting Lieutenant-Governor of the Transvaal, covering a memorandum from the Commissioner for Native Affairs which shows the rate of mortality among the native labourers from tropical areas for the year ending the 30th June, 1906.

2. The memorandum speaks for itself, but you will observe that the rate of mortality among the labourers from British Central Africa shows a serious increase over the rate which prevailed during the year July, 1904, to June, 1905, and, indeed, reached, during the year ended the 30th June, 1906, the high figure of 166.3 per thousand per annum.

3. In ordinary circumstances, and if there were no special considerations arising in connection with this matter, I should have no hesitation in recommending that recruiting from British Central Africa should be discontinued, but I would invite your special attention to what is said in Sir Godfrey Lagden's memorandum and in that of the Pass Commissioner at Johannesburg appended to it, about the experiment of employing British Central African natives on the Premier Diamond mine. The results of this experiment have, as Sir Godfrey Lagden says, been encouraging, and I would therefore recommend, as he suggests, that if the health of the British Central African natives now employed on the Premier mine remains at the end of September next as good as it is to-day, the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association should be authorised to import a further experimental gang of one thousand natives from British Central Africa, on the understanding that all the precautions which have hitherto been taken to safeguard their health should continue to be employed; that they should arrive only in the early summer, and that for the first three months of their employment, while they are becoming accustomed to the climate of the Witwatersrand, they should be employed only on surface work.

4. I would also recommend that if the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association and the management of the Premier mine desire to enter into a mutual arrangement for the purpose, the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association should be authorised to recruit a further body of one thousand natives, in addition to those above alluded to, for employment on the Premier mine only.

5. In this connection I would remind you that while I am awaiting a reply from the Commissioner of the British Central Africa Protectorate to my communication to him, alluded to in the second paragraph of my despatch of the 18th June,* I have as yet seen no reply to Mr. Knipe's contention, referred to in that despatch and connected correspondence, that the effect of prohibiting further recruiting of labour from the British Central Africa Protectorate would be not to diminish but to increase the mortality which prevails among the natives of that territory by increasing the amount of unsupervised emigration which already takes place.

6. It is necessary that a decision should now be arrived at on this matter, as, if the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association are to be in a position to import any natives from the British Central Africa Protectorate into the Transvaal by the early summer, they must commence recruiting operations at once.

7. If you agree to my recommendations it will be for the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association to consider whether they should conduct their preliminary recruiting operations in anticipation of the health of the British Central African natives now being employed on the Premier mine being good enough at the end

* Not printed.

of September to warrant the importation of the further experimental gangs to which I have referred.

8. I recommend that for this purpose North-Eastern Rhodesia should be regarded as part of the British Central Africa Protectorate, and that the total number of natives to be recruited by the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association from the Protectorate and from North-Eastern Rhodesia combined should not exceed two thousand.

9. To turn to the other tropical areas referred to in Sir Godfrey Lagden's memorandum, I understand that the authorities of German South-West Africa do not now permit the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association to recruit labour in Damaraland. The question of further importation of labour from that territory does not, therefore, arise.

10. With regard to Mozambique, Quilimane, and Southern Rhodesia (*i.e.*, Matabelelend and Mashonaland only) the mortality rates show, as you will see, a highly satisfactory decrease, which decrease is being maintained.

11. I therefore adhere to the recommendation made in my telegram of the 6th August, "B,"* that no impediment should be placed in the way of further importation of labour from these territories by the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association.

12. In the case of Southern Rhodesia, recruiting can, of course, only take place if the Administration of that territory authorises it.

13. In all cases I would insist on the continued observance of all the precautions which have hitherto been adopted for safeguarding the health of native labourers introduced from tropical areas, and the powers given to the Transvaal Government by the Coloured Labourers Health Regulations Ordinance, 1905, will be of great assistance to me in this matter.

I have, &c.,
SELBORNE,
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 6.

ACTING LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR, ORANGE RIVER COLONY, to HIGH COMMISSIONER.

MY LORD, Lieutenant-Governor's Office, Pretoria, August 1, 1906.

I HAVE the honour, with reference to my letter of the 24th May last, to forward to you a further memorandum by the Commissioner for Native Affairs with statistics showing the rate of mortality of native labourers recruited from tropical areas and working on the Witwatersrand mines up to the 30th June, 1906.

I have, &c.,
RICHARD SOLOMON,
Acting Lieutenant-Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Selborne, G.C.M.G.,
High Commissioner for South Africa,
Johannesburg.

His Excellency
the LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR, Pretoria, July 30, 1906.

IN my memorandum to His Excellency the High Commissioner of the 24th February last, I submitted a brief review of all the circumstances connected with the recruitment of native labourers in tropical regions for employment on the Witwatersrand mines from the declaration of peace to the 31st December last year.

Having traversed the question in its most important bearings, I made the following recommendations:—

(*a*) That if the high rate of mortality, which exceeded 100 per 1,000 per annum, was maintained it would be humanly indefensible to countenance further recruiting from tropical areas;

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* No. 4.

(*b*) That if, therefore, the departmental returns up to the 30th June this year showed no reduction in that rate, it should be definitely decided whether, and, if so, to what extent the recruitment of labourers from tropical areas in British territory ought to be suspended;

(*c*) That in the event of such suspension it should also be considered whether recruiting operations in tropical areas outside British territory should not be discountenanced;

(*d*) That if recruiting be suspended in tropical areas Southern Rhodesia should be included.

In accordance with the Secretary of State's telegram to Lord Selborne of the 4th December, 1905, it had previously been arranged between the Government and the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association that the recruitment of labour from all tropical regions, that is to say, north of latitude 22 degrees, should cease on the 31st January last, and should not be resumed unless the mortality returns for the year ending 30th June, 1906, showed a decided improvement on those of the previous year.

I now submit a copy of the returns* and chart* compiled from the records of this Department for that period, together with an instructive report thereon by the Pass Commissioner, which conveys an analysis of the mortality statistics.

The facts brought to light by the returns "A" and "B" are:—

(1) That the death-rate amongst labourers from British Central Africa and Damaraland continued to be alarmingly high during the year;

(2) That there has been a very satisfactory diminution in the mortality rate amongst those from other tropical areas, the actual figures being as follows:—

Territory.	July, 1904, to June, 1905.	July, 1905, to June, 1906.
British Central Africa	118·3 per 1,000 per annum.	166·3 per 1,000 per annum.
Damaraland	128·2 per 1,000 per annum.	113·8 per 1,000 per annum.
Mozambique	128·2 per 1,000 per annum.	65·8 per 1,000 per annum.
Quilimane	163·9 per 1,000 per annum.	71·6 per 1,000 per annum.
Rhodesia	118·6 per 1,000 per annum.	79·8 per 1,000 per annum.

(3) That the total death-rate from all tropical areas fell from 130.1 per 1,000 in 1904-5 to 99.5 per 1,000 in 1905-6.

The returns "D" and "E" show what an undue proportion the deaths amongst British Central Africans bear in the general mortality percentage in relation to the employment percentage. But it should be noted that a large number of them were introduced just before the trying winter months in 1905, and that a rapid and serious rise in the death-rate immediately followed.

The chart "C" illustrates the general mortality rate per 10,000 per annum amongst natives from all sources of the labour supply during the years 1904, 1905, and 1906.

Under the circumstances, I consider that the resumption of recruiting operations in Rhodesia and the provinces of Mozambique and Quilimane might be sanctioned, although the death-rate of natives from those areas is still disproportionately high; but it is more difficult to justify the recruitment of further natives from British Central Africa.

In this connection it may be observed that the results of an experiment of employing natives from British Central Africa on the Premier mine are so far encouraging as to warrant the hope that it may be possible to sanction a renewal of recruiting operations in that territory towards the end of the year. In that event every advantage could be taken of the experience gained as to the conditions and precautions to be adopted in respect of their selection, allocation, treatment and the season for enlistment.

* Not printed.

Having regard to the views recently expressed by His Majesty's Commissioner at Zomba upon this subject, I am inclined to think that if at the end of September next the health of the British Central African natives now employed on the Premier mine remains as good as it is to-day, the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association might be authorised to engage about 1,000 natives in the Protectorate as a further experiment for employment on surface work for at least three months during the process of acclimatization.

It has been demonstrated by statistics in the past that labourers from the tropics require about two or three months to become acclimatised, and that the most fatal period of disease is within the first six weeks of their arrival. Moreover, their introduction during the severe season is a potent factor. The mortality risk would, therefore, be minimised if the labourers were to reach the mines not before the 1st of October.

Upon the results of such experiment the Government would be in a better position to determine with some finality whether, and under what, conditions British Central Africa might be opened generally to recruiting for the mines.

The whole labour question is of such economic importance to South Africa that any restrictions upon the natural development of its local sources of supply can only be justified upon the very strongest grounds, and every effort should therefore be exhausted before any area is actually closed against the recruitment of labour.

The Coloured Labourers Health Regulations which were brought into operation in June last will enable the officials of this Department to exercise a more minute supervision than they were formerly empowered to exercise over the native compounds and hospitals on the mines, and I think that, under such extra supervision and with the additional precautions already alluded to, the mortality rate amongst any further natives introduced from British Central Africa may reasonably be expected to be reduced and maintained at an admissible standard.

G. Y. Lagden,
Commissioner for Native Affairs.

Memorandum on Mortality among Tropical Natives.

	The mortality from disease during the year 1904-5 was at the rate of	44.5 per thousand.
Annexure A.	The death-rate amongst natives recruited from tropical areas was	130.1 „ „
	The death-rate, exclusive of natives recruited from tropical areas was	35.7 „ „
	During the year 1905-6 the death-rate was	40.3 „ „
Annexure B.	The death-rate amongst natives recruited from tropical areas was	99.5 „ „
	The death-rate, exclusive of natives recruited from tropical areas was	33.3 „ „

As recruiting operations in areas north of latitude 22 degrees were suspended at the instance of the Transvaal Government between January 31st and February 15th, 1906, the following statement of the mortality during the first and last six months of the year 1905-6 is worthy of examination :—

	July-December, 1905.	January-June, 1906.
Total death rate	47·2	33·1 per 1,00
Death rate amongst natives recruited from tropical areas.	123·3	70·6
Death rate exclusive of natives recruited from tropical areas.	37·5	29·1

The marked fall in the rate of mortality is striking, but it would be unwise and probably incorrect to attribute it in too great a degree to the suspension of recruiting in areas north of latitude 22 degrees during the winter months, and the consequent

cessation of the influx of tropical natives since the commencement of the current year. For instance: While the rate of mortality during the last six months of 1903 was as high as 76.6 per thousand, it fell to 36.2 per thousand during the first six months of 1904. Unfortunately it is not possible with the data at the disposal of this Department to offer any substantial explanation of the marked variation during the latter two periods, but it may be accepted as an important contributory cause that the climatic conditions prevailing during the former period were extremely rigorous and, in fact, exceptional.

It has also been pointed out at frequent intervals in previous reports on the subject of the mortality amongst natives employed on mines that, whereas the territorial factor is one of the main determinants, there are other factors, such as those of acclimatisation and occupation, each of which has in turn been shown to exert a powerful influence upon the rate of mortality.

In order to ascertain to what extent the rate of mortality may be expected to be influenced by recruiting in certain areas, a territorial segregation has been made of the natives recruited by the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association during the period July, 1904, to June, 1906. A chart is submitted showing the influx month by month of those from tropical, sub-tropical, and temperate areas, of those engaging locally, and of the mortality from disease during the period. Annexure C.

The average death-rate during the past two years among natives other than those recruited from areas north of latitude 22 degrees was approximately 34.5 per thousand per annum. A study of the chart in this connection is interesting:

In July, 1904, the rate of mortality from disease was 34.04 per thousand per annum. In the two succeeding months 2,496 natives from tropical areas were distributed to mines, the maximum influx during the latter half of the year 1904 being in September of that year. In the following month the curve of mortality shows a marked rise, with little variation during the succeeding three months. Again, in April and May, 1905, there was an influx of 3,374 natives from tropical areas. An immediate rise in the curve of mortality is again apparent, and again with little variation during the months of July and August. In August, 1905, a marked fall in the influx of natives from these areas was followed by a considerable reduction in the rate of mortality, but in September and October a rapid influx was followed by an increase in the death-rate during November and December. During the latter and succeeding months the influx, owing to the suspension of recruiting, fell almost to zero, while the total rate of mortality, for the first time since July, 1904, receded in February, 1906, to its normal proportions, and has since remained at a lower and more constant rate than has been recorded since the introduction of the statistics of mortality.

The remaining curves, showing the influx of natives from other areas, bear so little resemblance to that of mortality that their examination is uninstructive.

While, therefore, it is desirable to give due consideration to each determining factor, and to bear in mind that the recent fall in mortality has been due to a combination of causes each of which has been instrumental to its reduction in a greater or lesser degree, the fact would appear to be established that so long as an average of 10 per cent. of the natives employed on mines are recruited from areas north of latitude 22 degrees, an average increase in the death-rate of approximately 8 per thousand may be anticipated.

It is well, at a time when the question of the re-opening of recruiting in tropical areas is under consideration, to consider what precautionary measures the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association have taken in the matter: The medical examination of recruits in their countries of origin, and also on arrival has been made more stringent, and explicit instructions have been issued to recruiters in areas north of latitude 22 degrees that only natives should be recruited who are of sufficient physique to withstand the arduous journey from their homes to the mines and the rigours of the altered climatic conditions to which they are exposed on arrival here. Again, at the depôt of the Association in Johannesburg, these natives are invariably detained for medical examination and treatment, and any of lesser physique or who appear not to be in robust health are subjected to a further period of detention during which special medical treatment and diet are provided for them. Upon allotment, the medical officer of the Association takes steps to instruct the medical officers of the mines to which they are allotted of the special treatment which, in his opinion, may for a time be necessary to fortify them against disease.

If the question of the nature of occupation be excepted, it is difficult to see what further precautions could be taken by the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association.

Annexures A and B. The rate of mortality amongst natives from tropical areas has fallen from 130.1 per thousand in 1904-5 to 99.5 per thousand in 1905-6, and 70.6 per thousand during the first six months of this year. The reduction is satisfactory, and it may be assumed with some degree of confidence that a material contributing factor has been the assiduity and perseverance which the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association have brought to bear upon their efforts to deal effectively with the serious problem which has faced them.

It is desired that this Department should submit distinct recommendations in respect of each area as to the expediency of sanctioning further recruiting. To do so, in any detail, would necessitate a reliable explanation of the increase or decrease in the mortality among the natives from each area of supply. The problem, however, is so complex and involves a consideration of so many circumstances and conditions of which this Department can have but little cognisance, that it is quite possible to conceive, in a question of this nature, that such a statement might at a future date be proved to have been totally misleading.

It should also be remembered that the period during which statistics of mortality have been recorded has not been sufficiently long to enable comparisons of periods and conditions to be drawn which might warrant the publication at the present time of a definite statement in respect of each area. For instance: The unvarying high rate of mortality among natives from British Central Africa, especially as compared with that recently recorded among those from Quilimane district of Portuguese East Africa, which in the past has been responsible for the highest territorial mortality, is at present totally unaccountable.

By arrangement with Dr. Turner, Medical Officer to the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, an opportunity was recently taken by the Pass Commissioner of this Department and Dr. Sansom, District Medical Officer of Health for the Witwatersrand, to inspect a number of British Central African natives who, having been employed for some time at the Durban-Roodepoort mine, were being transferred, as an experiment, to the Premier diamond mine.

The natives, almost without exception, were in robust health; some, in fact, were excellent specimens of muscular humanity.

Annexure F. At a later date a further gang of natives, also from British Central Africa, were transferred from the Roodeport Central Deep to the Premier mine.

The experiment, as will be remembered, has been made in accordance with the expressed intention of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association to place a number of natives recruited from British Central Africa at the Premier diamond mine on surface work, and to watch results for a period of four months, to determine whether they are physically more fitted for that class of labour.

Annexure F. A medical history of both gangs has accordingly been preserved by this Department, and is submitted.

It will be observed that of the 100 natives the majority were admitted to hospital shortly after their arrival from British Central Africa, in some cases on as many as five occasions, and that since their allotment to the Premier mine the health of all, with three exceptions, has been good, and that only eleven have been admitted to hospital, suffering in all cases from comparatively minor diseases.

The following statement shows the monthly record of admissions to hospital since their arrival on the Witwatersrand:—

Durban Roodepoort Gold Mining Company.								Premier Diamond Mine.		Roodepoort Central Deep.					
1905.			1906.					1906.		1906.					
Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March.	April.	May.	May.	June.	Jan.	Feb.	March.	April.	May.	June.
28	42	32	13	4	3	4	2	3	6	2	12	11	5	1	2

The high rate of sickness at the commencement of their employment, and the gradual decrease and subsequent low rate of sickness bear testimony to the theory that the factor of acclimatisation is one of the most important with which we have to contend in regard to the question of native mortality.

The potential values of the tropical areas as sources of labour supply are admittedly enormous, and the question at issue is, therefore, one affecting not only the economic prosperity of the Transvaal but of South Africa. One hesitates, therefore, to recommend that further recruiting in these territories be prohibited.

Experience has shown that, generally speaking, the question of mortality amongst natives on the mines resolves itself, in the case of every class of native, into one of "the survival of the fittest," and that the degree of mortality may reasonably be expected to vary in proportion as to how far removed are the climatic conditions at their homes from those in the labour districts of this Colony.

The sole reliable conclusions which may be drawn at present would appear to be:—

(*a*) That whereas in the absence of natives recruited from tropical areas a death-rate of manageable proportions, and varying between 30 and 35 per thousand per annum may, under ordinary conditions, be anticipated, recruiting in tropical areas will always be followed by an increase in the total rate of mortality, and that that increase will be largely dependent upon:

(1) The areas in which recruiting operations are conducted.

(2) The number of natives recruited from such areas.

(3) The precautionary measures adopted for their protection from disease.

(*b*) That any material reduction in the death-rate, were recruiting re-opened in British Central Africa, could not reasonably be anticipated.

In the meantime, the most equitable solution of the problem would appear to be that the policy of the Government should, for the present, be directed by the rates of mortality occurring among each class of natives. The death-rate among them is in all cases still high, and in the case of natives from British Central Africa has consistently been one of indefensible proportions; but, in respect of those from Quilimane, Mozambique, Rhodesia, and Damaraland, it has been much reduced.

As regards natives from North-Eastern Rhodesia it is desirable, for the purposes of territorial classification, that they should be classed as British Central Africans, and that the classification of "Rhodesia" should comprise only natives recruited from Matabeleland and Mashonaland. It is, however, understood that, owing to the difficulty experienced in satisfying local requirements, the Rhodesian Administration do not propose to authorise further recruiting in those areas for the Transvaal mines.

It is unlikely that recruiting in Damaraland will, under any circumstances, be resumed.

It is therefore recommended that sanction be given to the resumption of recruiting in the provinces of Mozambique and Quilimane only, under the conditions already prescribed by His Excellency the High Commissioner, and that the decision be reserved as to whether or not recruiting in British Central African territories should be permanently suspended.

Unfortunately no statistical information is apparently available to enable a comparison to be made of the relative death-rates occurring among natives from British Central Africa employed on the mines, and of those prevailing in their own native villages, or among those employed on construction works in those territories.

It may be possible to make a more definite statement at this time next year. In order to do so a careful record will be preserved of the health of those British Central African Natives who are now employed, with a view to ascertaining to what extent the factor of acclimatisation may influence the rate of mortality among them during the succeeding months, and to determining with some degree of accuracy the rate of mortality which must, under the most favourable conditions, be anticipated.

But, should these recommendations be adopted and it be decided to re-open recruiting in any area north of latitude 22 degrees, one important point should be

brought home forcibly to the individual managers of mines to which natives from those areas are allotted, viz.: that such natives require special care and treatment, and that no effort should be spared to carefully watch the health of all, and especially to nurse those who may be sick or who are of weaker constitution. By the term "nursing" it is not intended that only medical care should be afforded them. Every effort should be made to employ them on surface work such as that on the Premier Diamond Mine, and if on gold mines, they should be placed on as light work as possible for the first few months, until they become acclimatised. In no case should they be employed on developing, deep level, or wet mines.

The foregoing suggestions are especially recommended for consideration in view of the fact that the degree of attention which is given to the health of natives on mines varies considerably, and that, while on some mines the responsible officials spare no pains in considering every detail in respect of the welfare of natives, there are mines with the officials of which their welfare is a secondary consideration, and by whom it is sometimes even neglected.

The following statements of mortality from disease amongst natives employed on mines and works in the labour districts of the Transvaal are submitted:—

(*a*) Territorial analysis of mortality from disease amongst natives recruited from areas north of latitude 22 degrees and employed on mines and works affiliated to the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association in proclaimed labour districts (exclusive of natives employed by contractors) for the period July, 1904, to June, 1905.

(*b*) Territorial analysis of mortality from disease amongst natives recruited from areas north of latitude 22 degrees and employed on all mines and works in proclaimed labour districts (exclusive of natives employed by contractors) for the period July, 1905, to June, 1906.

(*c*) Statement showing, territorially, the relation of the mortality percentage to the employment percentage amongst natives employed on mines and works affiliated to the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association in proclaimed labour districts (exclusive of natives employed by contractors) for the period July, 1904, to June, 1905.

(*d*) Statement showing, territorially, the relation of the mortality percentage to the employment percentage amongst natives employed on all mines and works in proclaimed labour districts (exclusive of natives employed by contractors) for the period July, 1905, to June, 1906.

(*e*) Statement showing, territorially, the relation of the mortality percentage to the employment percentage amongst natives employed on all mines and works in proclaimed labour districts (exclusive of natives employed by contractors) for the period January to June, 1906.

(*f*) A medical history of British Central African natives allotted by the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association to mines in Krugersdorp district and subsequently transferred to the Premier Diamond Mine, Pretoria.

(*g*) Chart showing the influx of natives recruited by the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, Limited, from tropical, sub-tropical, and temperate areas, of natives engaging locally, and of the rate of mortality among such natives during the period July, 1904, to June, 1906.

The statistics relating to the year 1904-5 are confined to mines and works affiliated to the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, no other figures being available from which the mortality in respect of the natives recruited from the several tropical areas can be accurately estimated.

S. M. PRITCHARD,
Pass Commissioner.

Johannesburg,
July 25, 1906.

No. 7.

THE GOVERNOR OF THE TRANSVAAL to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

(Received 8 September, 1906.)

MY LORD, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, 20 August, 1906.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 6th August,* I have the honour to transmit to you the accompanying copies of two despatches which I have received from His Majesty's Commissioner for the British Central Africa Protectorate.

2. The contents of these despatches confirm, in my opinion, the recommendation, which I made in my despatch above referred to, that the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association should be allowed to recruit a further experimental gang of 1,000 natives from British Central Africa and North-Eastern Rhodesia for work on the Witwatersrand gold mines, subject to the conditions laid down in paragraph 3 of that despatch, and another gang of 1,000 natives for work on the Premier mine only, if they so desire.

3. I venture, therefore, to repeat that recommendation, but in view of the contents of Sir Alfred Sharpe's despatch of the 14th July, I would advise that the further condition should be imposed that no labourers should be recruited from the northern half of Angoniland.

I have, &c.,
SELBORNE,
Governor.

Enclosure 1 in No. 7.

COMMISSIONER, British Central Africa Protectorate, to HIGH COMMISSIONER.

MY LORD, Government Offices, Zomba, British Central Africa, 12 July, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 20th of June, 1906, on the subject of a Memorandum on a conversation between Mr. Knipe and Mr. Malcolm referring to the question of emigration of native labourers from this Protectorate to the Transvaal.

2. In reply to paragraph 2 of your despatch, I do not know that the ordinary rate of mortality among natives in this Protectorate living in their own districts under normal conditions is higher than in other parts of Africa.

3. The mortality rate, however, among those who work on plantations within the Protectorate is undoubtedly high; it has been difficult up to the present to obtain reliable statistics, except in the case of natives employed in the construction of the Shire Highlands Railway, and in that case the mortality last year was quite as high as among British Central Africa natives employed in the Transvaal. This year, however, the mortality rate among natives working on the railway will undoubtedly be lower than hitherto.

4. If authorised and supervised emigration from this Protectorate to the Transvaal is abolished, it is certain that one result will be that unauthorised emigrations (as described in paragraph 3, page 3 of my previous despatch) will increase. It is true that the mortality and the discomfort during journeys made by natives who travel on their own account to districts south of the Zambesi in search of work is far greater than in the case of natives who are conveyed by the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association under satisfactory conditions from their homes to Johannesburg; though I have no means of ascertaining how the death-rate among such natives during the term of their employment compares with the Johannesburg rate. Most of these independent emigrants go to Southern Rhodesia, only a few of them finding their way south as far as Johannesburg.

5. It is correct, as stated by Mr. Knipe, that considerable numbers of natives who travel from this Protectorate to British territories south of the Zambesi in

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* No. 6.

search of work never return, and that some of them die on the road owing to the absence of suitable arrangements for their long journey.

I have, &c.,
ALFRED SHARPE,
Commissioner.

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Selborne, P.C., G.C.M.G.,
High Commissioner for South Africa,
Pretoria.

Enclosure 2 in No. 7.

COMMISSIONER, British Central Africa Protectorate, to HIGH COMMISSIONER.

MY LORD, Government Offices, Zomba, British Central Africa, 14 July, 1906.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 12th instant, on the subject of the recruitment of British Central Africa natives for the Transvaal, I have the honour to transmit a copy of a letter addressed to me by the Superintendent of Native Affairs for this Protectorate, from which it appears that a very large majority of the deaths which have occurred amongst natives from British Central Africa in the Transvaal are natives living in the district of this Protectorate known as "Dowa," which includes a considerable portion of the northern half of Central Angoniland.

2. I think it quite reasonable to suppose, as Mr. Casson states, that if natives from the northern half of Angoniland were debarred from recruitment, the death-rate might be found to be much lower than it is. These people have not good physique, and although they live in a cold district they do not appear to be able to acclimatise themselves in a new country.

I have, &c.,
ALFRED SHARPE,
Commissioner.

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Selborne, P.C., G.C.M.G.,
Johannesburg.

THE SUPERINTENDENT OF NATIVE AFFAIRS, Zomba, to HIS MAJESTY'S COMMISSIONER, Zomba.

SIR, 12 July, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to call attention to the fact that most of the deaths which have occurred amongst British Central Africa natives in the Transvaal up to 31st March, 1906, belong to the sub-districts of Dowa and Lilongwe. These natives were recruited between July and December, 1905; they were mostly of the Chipeta tribe, and Achewa.

Number of Dowa natives dead	83
Number of Lilongwe natives dead...	18
	101

out of a total number of deaths to 31st March of 114. The remaining 13 deaths were: 1 Dedza native, 5 Karonga natives, and 7 Fort Johnston.

I have just received a list of deaths for April. Seventeen is the number: 14 of these are also from Dowa. The total to end of April, therefore, stands: 115 deaths out of a total of 131, are Dowa natives.

It would appear, therefore, that if recruiting were disallowed in Lilongwe and Dowa sub-districts, the death-rate might in future be very much reduced.

I have, &c.,
J. CHAS. CASSON,
Superintendent of Native Affairs.

His Majesty's Commissioner,
Zomba.

No. 8.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE to THE GOVERNOR OF THE TRANSVAAL.

(Sent 4.5 p.m., 26th September, 1906.)

TELEGRAM.

[*Answered by No.* 9.]

26th September. No. 1. Your despatch, 6th August,* paragraph 3. Please state what is now condition of health of British Central African natives employed on Premier Mine, giving number of deaths per thousand since they have been so employed.—ELGIN.

No. 9.

THE GOVERNOR OF THE TRANSVAAL to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

(Received 2.15 p.m., 4th October, 1906.)

TELEGRAM.

[*Answered by No.* 15.]

4th October. No. 1. Your telegram, No. 1, 26th September.† Health of British Central Africa natives on Premier Mine generally good. For months of May to September inclusive average number employed was 83; number of deaths 4.

I should be glad to receive early decision from His Majesty's Government as to whether recruiting from British Central Africa can be allowed to go on on the conditions indicated in my despatch, in order that the season may not be lost.—SELBORNE.

No. 10.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE to THE COMMISSIONER OF THE BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

(Sent 1.55 p.m., 22nd October, 1906.)

TELEGRAM.

[*Answered by No.* 11.]

22nd October. No. 20. Referring to enclosure in your despatch of 14th July‡ to Governor, Transvaal, numbers recruited from different districts are not given. Can you state death-rate amongst Northern Angoni as compared with that of natives recruited from other districts?—ELGIN.

No. 11.

THE COMMISSIONER OF THE BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA PROTECTORATE to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

(Received 3.10 p.m., 29th October, 1906.)

TELEGRAM.

[*Answered by No.* 14.]

29th October. No. 37. Your telegram, No. 20, 22nd October,§ During 1905 recruiting season, namely, July to December, inclusive, 1,714 men were recruited

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* No. 6. † No 8. ‡ Enclosure 2 in No. 7. § No. 10.

in British Central Africa Protectorate, of whom 1,549 arrived at Johannesburg, the remaining 165 having been rejected or fell out or deserted. Of the 1,549 men, 1,191 came from northern portion of the Central Angoniland District, 34 from southern portion of same district, 118 from North Nyasa, and 206 from South Nyasa. The numbers who died at Johannesburg during the period of nine months, October, 1905, to June, 1906, inclusive, was 156, of which details are as follows:—Northern portion, Central Angoniland, 138; southern portion, 1; North Nyasa, 7; and South Nyasa, 10.—SHARPE.

No. 12.

THE GOVERNOR OF THE TRANSVAAL to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

(Received 8.27 p.m., 2nd November, 1906.)

TELEGRAM.

[*Answered by No.* 15.]

2nd November. No. 2. Witwatersrand Native Labour Association have arranged with Premier Diamond Company to recruit 500 British Central African natives for them if recruiting is allowed. Have you any objection? Should be glad if you would also telegraph at once final decision as to resumption of recruiting for gold mines from British Central Africa and North-Eastern Rhodesia, as only two months of present recruiting season remain.—SELBORNE.

No. 13.

THE GOVERNOR OF THE TRANSVAAL to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

(Received November 3, 1906.)

[*Answered by No.* 15.]

MY LORD, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, October 15, 1906.

IN connection with the correspondence noted in the margin,* I have now the honour to transmit, for Your Lordship's information, the enclosed copy of a letter from the Secretary for Native Affairs, covering a report by the Pass Commissioner of the Native Affairs Department with a medical history of the British Central African natives employed on the Premier Diamond Mine from the month of May to the end of September this year.

I have, &c.,
SELBORNE,
Governor.

Governor to Secretary of State, Telegrams A and B, 6th August, 1906.
Secretary of State to Governor, Telegram No. 3, 10th August, 1906.
Governor to Secretary of State, Despatch, 6th August, 1906.
Governor to Secretary of State, Despatch, 20th August, 1906.
Secretary of State to Governor, Telegram No. 1, 26th September, 1906.
Governor to Secretary of State, Telegram, No. 1, 4th October, 1906.

Enclosure in No. 13.

SECRETARY FOR NATIVE AFFAIRS to the ACTING LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR.

Pretoria, October 11, 1906.

With reference to your Minutes noted in the margin, I now submit a draft despatch for transmission to the Secretary of State, covering copy of a report by the Pass Commissioner of this Department with a medical history of the British Central African natives employed on the Premier Diamond Mine.

August 13, 1906.
August 15, 1906.
September 26, 1906.
October 6, 1906.

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* Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9.

It will be observed from particulars of the four deaths that three died of pneumonia, two of which were accompanied by malarial complications, and one of peritonitis.

W. WINDHAM,
Secretary for Native Affairs.

The Private Secretary to
His Excellency the Acting Lieutenant-Governor.

MEMORANDUM on British Central Africa Natives employed on the Premier Mine.

On my return journey from a tour of inspection in the Witbank and Balmoral districts I visited the Premier Diamond Mine on the 2nd instant, and paid particular attention to the general conditions under which the British Central African natives were employed, and to their general health since their allotment to that mine.

I found that on their arrival they were all housed in Number 2 Compound, in order that their general health and capacity for work might be under special observation.

They were first employed on the tailings dam—a form of labour which necessitated their being up to their knees in water during the greater portion of the work. The wages earned at this period averaged between three and four shillings per native per diem, of which an average sum of 1s. 2d. was applied by each to the purchase of his own food, their contracts not including the supply of rations. The principal foodstuffs purchased have been tinned fish, fresh fish, rice, mealie meal, and flour.

In May four were admitted to hospital suffering from minor diseases, but before the end of the month all had been discharged and returned to work during that month. No deaths occurred during this period.

In July the natives were transferred from the tailings dam to the work of removing the overburden of mud lately deposited on the property by the bursting of a dam. Under these conditions of labour their health was not so good, and ten were admitted to hospital, of whom three died within six days after their admission.

At the end of July the general health of the natives showed signs of improvement, and they were distributed to various classes of labour on the mine.

In August eight were admitted to hospital, of whom one died. During September only three were admitted to hospital, and these, together with those previously admitted, were discharged, and returned to work before the end of the month.

I personally inspected the majority of the natives, all of whom were at work on the 2nd instant, and was satisfied that their general physical appearance compared favourably with that of the other tribes employed on the mine. They are reported to be industrious and intelligent, and during the last fortnight have worked an average of 11·4 shifts out of a possible 13. The death-rate among them since their allotment to the Premier Mine to the end of September has been 115·6 per thousand per annum.* Their medical history has been compiled to date, and is submitted together with a statement of the mortality. †

S. M. PRITCHARD,
Pass Commissioner.

Johannesburg,
October 6/9, 1906.

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* COLONIAL OFFICE NOTE.—The facts upon which this rate is based are that the average number employed from 14th May to 30th September, 1906, was 83, among whom there were four deaths from disease.

† Not printed.

No. 14.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE to THE COMMISSIONER OF THE BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

(Sent 9 p.m., 8th November, 1906.)

TELEGRAM.

[*Answered by No.* 16.]

No. 21. Your telegram, No. 37, 29th October.* I have now as a further experiment for this year approved of recruitment of 1,000 additional natives from the British Central Africa Protectorate for the Transvaal mines; 500 for the gold mines, on condition that they are employed on surface work only during the whole period of their engagement, and 500 for the Premier Diamond Mine. No labourers are to be recruited from northern half of Angoniland. I have also approved of recruitment of 500 natives of North-Eastern Rhodesia for the gold mines provided that they are employed on surface work only and that British South Africa Company and Administration of North-Eastern Rhodesia raise no objection.—ELGIN.

No. 15.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE to THE GOVERNOR OF THE TRANSVAAL.

(Sent 9 p.m., 8th November, 1906.)

TELEGRAM.

8th November. No. 5. Your telegrams, 4th October, No. 1, and 2nd November, No. 2, and your despatch, 15th October.† As a further experiment for this year I agree to the recruitment of 500 natives from the British Central Africa Protectorate for the gold mines, but on condition that they are employed on surface work only during the whole period of their employment and not during the first three months only. Also I approve of the recruitment of the additional 500 for which the Premier Diamond Mine ask.

No labourers however must be recruited from the northern half of Angoniland.

With regard to North-Eastern Rhodesian natives I am willing that 500 should be recruited for surface work on the gold mines during their whole engagement, provided that British South Africa Company and Administration of North-Eastern Rhodesia raise no objection.

I have informed Commissioner, British Central Africa Protectorate, by telegraph accordingly.—ELGIN.

No. 16.

THE COMMISSIONER OF THE BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA PROTECTORATE to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

(Received 2.45 p.m., 13th November, 1906.)

TELEGRAM.

12th November. No. 40. Your telegram, No. 21‡ Local representative of Witwatersrand Native Labour Association has been advised by me of contents of your telegram. Recruiting season finishes on 31st December.—SHARPE.

No. 17.

THE COMMISSIONER OF THE BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA PROTECTORATE to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

(Received 4.30 p.m., 12th February, 1907.)

TELEGRAM.

No. 5. 12th February. I shall be glad if you will inform me as soon as you can whether recruitment of British Central Africa natives for Premier Diamond

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* No. 11. † Nos. 9, 12, and 13. ‡ No. 14.

Mine is to be permitted during the coming season commencing 1st July. Witwatersrand Native Labour Association agent informs me that Premier Mine will probably desire, if permitted, to recruit 1,000 men. I think the Premier Mine more suitable than Rand gold mines for British Central Africa natives.—SHARPE.

No. 18.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE to THE GOVERNOR OF THE TRANSVAAL.

Sent 4.15 p.m., February 20, 1907.)

TELEGRAM.

[*Answered by No.* 19.]

20th February. No. 1. Commissioner, British Central Africa Protectorate, enquires whether recruitment of natives for Premier Diamond Mine will be permitted next season, commencing 1st July. He understands that Premier Mine will probably desire to recruit 1,000 if permitted, and says that he thinks Premier Mine more suitable than Rand gold mines.

Please report to me latest figures available as to sickness and mortality amongst British Central Africa natives employed both on Premier Mine and other mines in Transvaal, and particularly figures regarding health of natives recruited for Premier Mine during last season. I understand that no steps have been taken in accordance with permission given in November to recruit natives from British Central Africa Protectorate and North-Eastern Rhodesia for surface work on gold mines.—ELGIN.

No. 19.

THE GOVERNOR OF THE TRANSVAAL to the SECRETARY OF STATE.

(Received 2.12 p.m., March 4, 1907.)

TELEGRAM.

4th March. A. Your telegram of 20th February, No. 1.* Mortality amongst British Central Africa natives employed on the Premier and other mines in the Transvaal for period 1st July to 31st December, 1906, was at the rate of 66.5 per 1,000 per annum. 1,016 British Central Africa natives were discharged from the mine towards end of October, consequently no further particulars as to mortality appear to be necessary. No steps have been taken upon permission given in November to recruit in British Central Africa Protectorate and North-Eastern Rhodesia for surface work on gold mines. Despatch follows by mail.—SELBORNE.

No. 20.

THE GOVERNOR OF THE TRANSVAAL to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

(Received March 23, 1907.)

[*Answered by Nos.* 22 *and* 27.]

MY LORD, Government House, Pretoria, March 3, 1907.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 4th March, A,† I have the honour to enclose a copy of a Memorandum from the Pass Commissioner, together with the returns therein referred to, relating to the health of the British Central Africa natives employed on the Premier and other mines in the Transvaal, for the period 1st July to 31st December, 1906.

2. A revised medical history of the natives employed on the Premier Mine is also forwarded in connection with the reports forwarded to you in my despatch of the 15th October last.‡

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* No. 18. † No. 19. ‡ No. 13

3. It will be observed that the returns show a decided improvement in the rate of mortality amongst this particular class of native as compared with the years 1905-1906.

I have, &c.,
SELBORNE,
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 20.

MEMORANDUM ON BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICAN NATIVES EMPLOYED ON THE PREMIER MINE.

Since the memorandum of the Pass Commissioner of 6th October last, dealing with the health of British Central African natives on the Premier Mine up to the end of September, no additional British Central African natives were employed. The natives then dealt with were discharged towards the end of October, and, with the exception of 29 who it was found had not completed their contracts, were sent home on the 27th of that month. The 29 natives were sent to the Roodepoort Central Deep to complete the unexpired portion of their contracts and also returned home on the 12th February.

The medical history of this batch which was attached to the memorandum above referred to has been completed to time of discharge from the Premier and is attached, as is also the history of the remaining 29 to date of return home. It will be seen that the health of the natives during the latter portion of their employment was very good.

A territorial analysis of mortality from disease amongst natives recruited from areas north of latitude 22° and employed on all mines and works in proclaimed labour districts (exclusive of natives employed by contractors) for the half-year ended 31st December, 1906, is attached. It will be seen that the mortality among British Central African natives and those from North-Eastern Rhodesia and Fort Jameson is practically identical, being 66.5 and 66.3 per thousand per annum respectively. There is little doubt that the improvement which these figures show when compared with the rates of mortality of British Central African natives for the years ended June, 1905, and June, 1906, of 118.3 and 166.3, respectively, is mainly attributable to the fact that the suspension of recruiting early last year has admitted of the benefit derived from the process of acclimatisation making itself apparent.

A statement is attached showing territorially the relation of the mortality percentage to the employment percentage amongst natives employed on all mines and works in proclaimed labour districts (excluding natives employed by contractors) for the half-year ended 31st December, 1906.

Advantage was not taken of the permission granted last season to recruit natives for the Premier Mine until recently. Four hundred and eighty-five natives have been introduced from British Central Africa within the last few days. As they are only now being sent to the Premier Mine an analysis of their capabilities as labourers is impossible.

No steps have been taken to recruit natives from British Central Africa Protectorate and North-Eastern Rhodesia for surface work on gold mines in accordance with permission given in November last.

H. S. COOKE,
Acting Pass Commissioner.

Johannesburg,
February 28, 1907.

MEDICAL HISTORY OF BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICAN NATIVES ALLOTTED BY THE WITWATERSRAND NATIVE LABOUR ASSOCIATION TO MINES IN KRUGERSDORP DISTRICT AND SUBSEQUENTLY TRANSFERRED TO THE PREMIER DIAMOND MINE, PRETORIA.

Krugersdorp Passport No.	Name of Native.	Name of Mine.	Date of Registration.	Date of admission to Hospital.	Date discharged from Hospital.	Nature of Disease.	Date of Transfer.	Pretoria Passport No.	Name of Mine.	Date of admission to Hospital.	Date of Discharge.	Date of Death.	Nature of Disease.	State of Health since Transfer.	Date sent Home on completion of Contract.
65943	Jack ...	Durban Roodepoort.	7 Oct. 1905	20 Oct. 1905 27 Nov. 1905	21 Oct. 1905 3 Dec. 1905	Cough ... Diarrhœa.	12 May 1906	25897	Premier Diamond Mine.	—	—	—	—	Good	27 Oct. 1906
65944	Ben	"	"	21 Oct. 1905 16 Dec. 1905	29 Oct. 1905 29 Dec. 1905	Diarrhœa ... Influenza.	"	25920	"	—	—	—	—	"	"
65945	Bonani ...	"	"	23 Oct. 1905 7 Dec. 1905 16 Dec. 1905	17 Nov. 1905 11 Dec. 1905 26 Dec. 1905	Pneumonia... Headache. Diarrhœa.	"	25953	"	—	—	—	—	"	"
65946	Bakalasi ...	"	"	21 Oct. 1905 29 Dec. 1905	23 Oct. 1905 2 Jan. 1906	Headache ... "	"	25949	"	—	—	—	—	"	"
65947	Tshibali ...	"	"	27 Oct. 1905	31 Oct. 1905	Bronchitis ...	"	25956	"	—	—	—	—	"	"
65948	Sintale ...	"	"	—	—	—	"	25952	"	6 Aug. 1906	14 Aug. 1906	—	Influenza ...	"	"
65949	Kapatengu...	"	"	19 Oct. 1905 23 Oct. 1905	20 Oct. 1905 20 Nov. 1905	Cough ... Pneumonia.	"	25955	"	—	—	—	—	"	"
65950	Missi ...	"	"	29 Jan. 1906	5 Feb. 1906	Influenza ...	"	25957	"	—	—	—	—	"	"
65951	Kambani ...	"	"	26 Oct. 1905 20 Nov. 1905 11 Jan. 1906	29 Oct. 1905 22 Nov. 1905 13 Jan. 1906	Headache ... " Diarrhœa.	"	25926	"	—	—	—	—	"	"
65952	Deremani ...	"	"	18 Oct. 1905 7 Dec. 1905	20 Oct. 1905 9 Dec. 1905	Sore throat... Headache.	"	26114	"	—	—	—	—	"	"
65954	Umdesa ...	"	"	13 Oct. 1905	19 Oct. 1905	Influenza ...	"	26115	"	6 Oct. 1906	10 Oct. 1906	—	Influenza ...	"	"
65955	Sam... ...	"	"	27 Nov. 1905	27 Nov. 1905	Headache ...	"	25947	"	—	—	—	—	"	"
65956	Henoko ...	"	"	25 Oct. 1905 26 Apr. 1906	29 Oct. 1905 29 Apr. 1906	Diarrhœa ... Headache.	"	25902	"	28 May 1906 6 Aug. 1906	31 May 1906 29 Aug. 1906	—	Colic ... ... Scurvy ...	Fair Good	"
65957	Madowa ...	"	"	5 Mar. 1906	9 Mar. 1906	" ...	"	25946	"	—	—	—	—	"	"
65958	Dalayisa ...	"	"	—	—	—	"	25958	"	—	—	—	—	"	"
65959	Hasera ...	"	"	19 Oct. 1905	29 Oct. 1905	Malaria ...	"	25961	"	—	—	—	—	"	"
65960	Joresia ...	"	"	23 Oct. 1905 2 Nov. 1905 16 Apr. 1906	29 Oct. 1905 6 Nov. 1905 25 Apr. 1906	Pneumonia... Headache. Boils.	"	26116	"	—	—	—	—	"	"
65962	Futasi ...	"	"	—	—	—	"	26117	"	23 June 1906	25 June 1906	—	Catarrh ...	"	"
65963	Ujobo ...	"	"	24 Nov. 1905	11 Dec. 1905	Diarrhœa ...	"	26118	"	2 June 1906	25 June 1906	—	Malaria ...	Fair	"
65964	Umbeliga ...	"	"	—	—	—	"	25959	"	9 June 1906	2 July 1906	—	" ...	"	"
65965	Matola ...	"	"	13 Oct. 1905 8 Nov. 1905 9 Dec. 1905 16 Dec. 1905	18 Oct. 1905 14 Nov. 1905 11 Dec. 1905 26 Dec. 1905	Rheumatism Headache. Sore eyes. Rheumatism.	"	26119	"	24 July 1906	10 Sept. 1906	—	Scurvy ...	Good	"

Krugersdorp Passport No.	Name of Native.	Name of Mine.	Date of Registration.	Date of admission to Hospital.	Date discharged from Hospital.	Nature of Disease.	Date of Transfer.	Pretoria Passport No.	Name of Mine.	Date of admission to Hospital.	Date of Discharge.	Date of Death.	Nature of Disease.	State of Health since Transfer.	Date sent Home on completion of Contract.
65966	Manilo ...	Durban Roodepoort.	7 Oct. 1905	29 Dec. 1905	2 Jan. 1906	Headache ...	12 May 1906	25943	Premier Diamond Mine.	—	—	—	—	Good	27 Oct. 1906
65967	John ...	"	"	20 Nov. 1905	5 Dec. 1905	Diarrhœa ...	"	25956	"	24 May 1906	31 May 1906	—	Simple fever ...	"	"
				4 Nov. 1906	16 Nov. 1906	Sore side.									
				27 Feb. 1906	5 Mar. 1906	Pleurisy									
				5 Apr. 1906	17 Apr. 1906	Influenza.									
				19 Apr. 1906	7 May 1906	Epileptic fits.									
65968	Teyanga ...	"	"	9 Dec. 1905	14 Dec. 1905	Headache ...	"	25962	"	9 Aug. 1906	14 Aug. 1906	—	Contusion of leg	"	"
65969	Mdala ...	"	"	16 Oct. 1905	25 Oct. 1905	Diarrhœa ...	"	25919	"	2 Aug. 1906	20 Aug. 1906	—	Influenza ...	"	"
				27 Oct. 1905	29 Oct. 1905	"									
				30 Oct. 1905	6 Nov. 1905	Influenza.									
				2 Dec. 1905	6 Dec. 1905	Headache.									
65971	Poloso ...	"	"	31 Oct. 1905	1 Nov. 1905	Headache ...	"	26120	"	—	—	—	—	"	"
65972	Matenda ...	"	"	9 Jan. 1906	16 Jan. 1906	Diarrhœa.									
				1 Feb. 1906	5 Feb. 1906	Influenza ...	"	25948	"	23 June 1906	10 July 1906	—	Malaria ..	Fair	"
65973	Gagambi ...	"	"	2 Nov. 1905	5 Nov. 1905	Diarrhœa ...	"	25954	"	5 Oct. 1906	10 Oct. 1906	—	Influenza ...	Good	"
				9 Jan. 1906	16 Jan. 1906	Pneumonia.									
65974	Umseno ...	"	"	23 Oct. 1905	28 Oct. 1905	Influenza ...	"	25939	"	—	—	—	—	"	"
				22 Nov. 1905	27 Nov. 1605	Rash.									
				23 Feb. 1906	3 Mar. 1906	Malaria.									
65975	Jim	"	"	—	—	—	"	25900	"	—	—	—	—	"	"
65976	Loti	"	"	10 Nov. 1905	13 Nov. 1905	Headache ...	"	25944	"	—	—	—	—	"	"
				9 Dec. 1905	12 Dec. 1905	"									
				26 Dec. 1905	26 Dec. 1905	Sore throat.									
62281	Madi ...	"	24 Oct. 1905	—	—	—	"	25915	"	—	—	—	—	"	"
62019	Mtapi ...	"	18 Oct. 1905	—	—	—	"	25696	"	—	—	—	—	"	"
62020	Makinyi ...	"	"	—	—	—	"	25966	"	—	—	—	—	"	"
62021	Katonda ...	"	"	27 Oct. 1905	13 Nov. 1905	Diarrhœa ...	"	26121	"	—	—	—	—	"	"
				27 Nov. 1905	17 Dec. 1905	"									
62022	Chayima ...	"	"	28 Oct. 1905	2 Nov. 1905	Headache ...	"	25905	"	—	—	—	—	"	"
				8 Nov. 1905	5 Dec. 1905	Diarrhœa.									
62027	Marambi ...	"	"	—	—	—	"	25898	"	—	—	—	—	"	"
62028	Mkamba ...	"	"	27 Oct. 1905	29 Oct. 1905	Headache ...	"	25963	"	—	—	—	—	"	"
				11 Dec. 1905	14 Dec. 1905	Diarrhœa.									
62029	Kayipume ...	"	"	30 Oct. 1905	4 Nov. 1905	"	"	25921	"	—	—	—	—	"	"
				23 Jan. 1906	30 Jan. 1906	"									
62031	Kentagonga	"	"	6 Dec. 1905	7 Dec. 1905	"	"	25914	"	—	—	—	—	"	"
62032	Chubavura...	"	"	—	—	—	"	25917	"	13 Aug. 1906	15 Sept. 1906	—	Malaria ...	Fair	"
62033	Chumgumanje	"	"	3 Nov. 1905	10 Nov. 1905	Sore throat	"	25960	"	2 July 1906	17 July 1906	—	Wounded toe...	Good	"
				13 Nov. 1905	17 Nov. 1905	Influenza.									
				9 Dec. 1905	26 Dec. 1905	Diarrhœa.									
62034	Muzame ...	"	"	—	—	—	"	25901	"	—	—	—	—	"	"

62035	Mazatingenje	„	„	6 Nov. 1905 24 Jan. 1906	13 Nov. 1905 29 Jan. 1906	Diarrhœa ... Headache.	„	25964	„	28 May 1806 27 July 1906	31 May 1906 4 Sept. 1906	—	Influenza ... Scurvy.	Fair	„
62037	Muliro ...	„	„	1 Nov. 1905 11 Dec. 1905	10 Nov. 1905 26 Dec. 1905	Diarrhœa ... Influenza.	„	25909	„	23 June 1906	2 July 1906	—	Malaria ...	„	„
62038	Muandeni ...	„	„	3 Nov. 1905	10 Nov. 1905	Diarrhœa ...	„	25942	„	26 July 1906	—	27 July 1906.	Pneumonia, congestion of lungs.	Bad	„
62039	Kanderika ...	„	„	28 Oct. 1905 21 Dec. 1905	14 Dec. 1905 28 Dec. 1905	„	„	25940	„	—	—	—	Scurvy ...	Good	„
62040	Chikusi ...	„	„	—	—	—	„	25918	„	—	—	—	—	„	„
62041	Chiberangi...	„	„	2 Nov. 1905	6 Nov. 1905	Diarrhœa ...	„	25923	„	7 Sept. 1906	19 Sept. 1906	—	Influenza ...	„	„
62042	Karagwa ...	„	„	18 Dec. 1905	28 Dec. 1905	„	„	25913	„	—	—	—	—	„	„
62043	Mapalu ...	„	„	30 Oct. 1905	1 Nov. 1905	„	„	25910	„	—	—	—	—	„	„
62044	Kazandiko...	„	„	6 Nov. 1905 28 Dec. 1905	9 Nov. 1905 5 Jan. 1906	Cold ... Diarrhœa.	„	25945	„	27 July 1906	—	30 July 1906.	Scurvy, perforative peritonitis.	Bad	„
62045	Chera ...	„	„	—	—	—	„	26111	„	—	—	—	Syncope ...	Good	„
62046	Manondo ...	„	„	27 Oct. 1905 5 Dec. 1905	13 Nov. 1905 9 Dec. 1905	Diarrhœa ... „	„	25916	„	—	—	—	—	„	„
62047	Munyanga ...	„	„	18 Dec 1905 —	26 Dec. 1905 —	„ —	„	25904	„	—	—	—	—	„	„
62048	Kandamira...	„	18 Oct. 1905	4 Nov. 1905	6 Nov. 1905	Diarrhœa ...	12 May 1906	25912	„	29 June 1906	—	4 July 1906.	Congestion of lungs, malaria.	Bad	—
62050	Kambiri ...	„	„	2 Nov. 1905 24 Jan. 1906	4 Nov. 1905 26 Jan. 1906	Headache ... „	„	25941	„	—	—	—	—	Good	27 Oct. 1906
62051	Ferani ...	„	„	27 Nov. 1905	9 Dec. 1905	Pneumonia...	„	26112	„	—	—	—	—	„	„
62121	Gweri ...	„	„	—	—	—	„	25911	„	—	—	—	—	„	„
62125	Chuwere ...	„	„	8 Nov. 1905	13 Nov. 1905	Headache ...	„	25906	„	—	—	—	—	„	„
62127	Tolwa ...	„	„	31 Oct. 1905 23 Nov. 1905 17 Jan. 1906	9 Nov. 1905 28 Nov. 1905 30 Jan. 1906	Diarrhœa ... Influenza. Pneumonia.	„	25907	„	—	—	—	—	„	„
62130	Kanyangama	„	„	26 Oct. 1905 3 Nov. 1905 17 Nov. 1905	29 Oct. 1905 10 Nov. 1905 26 Nov. 1905	Diarrhœa ... Headache. Influenza.	„	25908	„	—	—	—	—	„	„
62131	Kadumbu ...	„	„	1 Nov. 1905 28 Dec. 1905	6 Nov. 1905 5 Jan. 1906	Diarrhœa ... „	„	25899	„	—	—	—	—	„	„
62132	Zinyati ...	„	„	1 Nov. 1905 4 Dec. 1905	4 Nov. 1905 17 Dec. 1905	„ „	„	25951	„	—	—	—	—	„	„
62135	Munyerawo	„	„	—	—	—	„	26113	„	—	—	—	—	„	„
62023	Tamayone ...	„	„	30 Nov. 1905	12 Dec. 1905	Sore knee ...	„	25965	„	—	—	—	—	„	„
62024	Kamanga ...	„	„	6 Nov. 1905	12 Dec. 1905	Whitlow ...	„	25922	„	—	—	—	—	„	„
62026	Katsonya ...	„	„	6 Nov. 1905	17 Nov. 1905	Swollen hand	„	25924	„	—	—	—	—	„	„
62030	Kapumbu ...	„	„	—	—	—	„	25903	„	—	—	—	—	„	„
65970	Kasambi ...	„	7 Oct. 1905	9 May 1906	22 May 1906	Pneumonia...	24 May 1906	24562	„	—	—	—	—	„	„

MEDICAL HISTORY OF BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICAN NATIVES ALLOTTED BY THE WITWATERSRAND NATIVE LABOUR ASSOCIATION TO MINES IN KRUGERSDORP DISTRICT, AND SUBSEQUENTLY TRANSFERRED TO THE PREMIER DIAMOND MINE, PRETORIA.

Krugersdorp Passport No.	Name of Native.	Name of Mine.	Date of Registration.	Date of admission to Hospital.	Date of discharge from Hospital.	Nature of Disease.	Date of Transfer.	Pretoria Passport No.	Name of Mine.	Date of admission to Hospital.	Date of discharge from Hospital.	Date of Death.	State of Health since transfer.	Nature of Disease.	Date of transfer back to Roodepoort Central Deep.
68401	Magombi ...	Roodepoort Central Deep.	13 Jan. 1906	—	—	—	4 June 1906	24548	Premier	—	—	—	Good	—	2 Nov. 1906
68437	Nyamasuka	"	"	—	—	—	"	24532	"	—	—	—	"	—	"
68383	Ganda ...	"	"	—	—	—	"	24560	"	—	—	—	"	—	"
68393	Chitembu ...	"	"	10 Apr. 1906	12 May 1906	Pneumonia...	"	24540	"	—	—	—	"	—	"
68403	Matakenya...	"	"	1 Feb. 1906	2 Feb. 1906	"	"	24552	"	—	—	—	"	—	"
68401	Tambola ...	"	"	27 Jan. 1906	1 Feb. 1906	"	"	24541	"	—	—	—	"	—	"
68450	Magombi ...	"	"	23 Mar. 1906	1 Apr. 1906	"	"	24561	"	—	—	—	"	—	"
68445	Chamai ...	"	"	21 Feb. 1906	26 Mar. 1906	Influenza ...	"	24547	"	—	—	—	"	—	"
68454	Kachuta ...	"	"	21 Feb. 1906	24 Feb. 1906	"	"	24533	"	26 June 1906	2 July 1906	—	Fair	Malaria ...	"
68446	Widiani ...	"	"	21 Feb. 1906	30 Feb. 1906	Bad cough...	"	24555	"	27 June 1906	14 July 1906	—	"	Influenza ...	"
68439	Lubaria ...	"	"	18 Jan. 1906	10 Feb. 1906	Pneumonia...	"	24558	"	—	—	—	"	—	"
68443	Chindiza ...	"	"	26 Mar. 1906	31 Mar. 1906	Influenza ...	"	24539	"	—	—	—	"	—	"
68417	Machiola ...	"	"	12 Feb. 1906	13 Mar. 1906	Bad cough...	"	24536	"	14 Sept. 1906	19 Sept. 1906	—	"	Diarrhœa ...	"
68441	Kachinda ...	"	"	10 Mar. 1906	12 Mar. 1906	"	"	24545	"	—	—	—	"	—	"
68438	Seremani ...	"	"	1 Feb. 1906	10 Mar. 1906	"	"	24546	"	2 Aug. 1906 13 Sept. 1906	29 Aug. 1906 24 Sept. 1906	—	" "	Pneumonia ... Influenza.	"
68440	Kazitya ...	"	"	30 Mar. 1906	12 Apr. 1906	"	"	24543	"	—	—	—	Good	—	"
68434	Nderera ...	"	"	—	—	—	"	24556	"	—	—	—	"	—	"
68384	Pachikani ...	"	"	—	—	—	"	24554	"	1 Aug. 1906	—	11 Aug. 1906.	Bad	Pneumonia Malaria Scurvy	"
68432	Banoli ...	"	"	4 Mar. 1906	10 Apr. 1906	Pneumonia...	"	24544	"	—	—	—	Good	—	"
68397	Chekopa ...	"	"	—	—	—	"	24551	"	—	—	—	"	—	"
68442	Janiosi ...	"	"	24 Mar. 1906	30 Apr. 1906	Pneumonia...	"	24538	"	—	—	—	"	—	"
68436	Gadimika ...	"	"	—	—	—	"	24557	"	—	—	—	"	—	"
68412	Zirabantu ...	"	"	—	—	—	"	24553	"	—	—	—	"	—	"

68408	Madaliza ...	,,	,,	—	—	—	,,	24549	,,	—	—	—	,,	—	,,
68413	Tansi ...	,,	,,	2 Feb. 1906	20 Feb. 1906	Cough ...	,,	24535	,,	—	—	—	,,	—	,,
68427	Chikopa ...	,,	,,	—	—	—	,,	24550	,,	—	—	—	,,	—	,,
68428	Jirisi ...	,,	,,	8 Feb. 1906	24 Feb. 1906	Pneumonia...	,,	24537	,,	—	—	—	,,	—	,,
68426	Gomona ...	,,	,,	—	—	—	,,	24559	,,	—	—	—	,,	—	,,
68430	Kuzunwa ...	,,	,,	24 Feb. 1906	20 Mar. 1906	Pneumonia...	,,	24534	,,	—	—	—	,,	—	,,
68448	Matikiti ...	,,	,,	28 Feb. 1906	20 Mar. 1906	Influenza ...	,,	24542	,,	—	—	—	,,	—	,,

HEALTH RETURN OF THE TWENTY-NINE BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICAN NATIVES THAT WERE RETURNED FROM PREMIER MINE TO ROODEPOORT CENTRAL DEEP.

Krugersdorp Passport No.	Pretoria Passport No.	Name of Native.	Nature of Employment.	Deaths.	Date of admission to Hospital.	Date of discharge from Hospital.	Nature of Disease.	Health during Period	Date of Return Home.
81405	24560	Ganda	Drilling underground	Nil	20 Dec. 1906 ...	22 Dec. 1906 ...	Cough	Good	12 Feb. 1907.
81406	24559	Gomona	,, ,,	,, ...	Nil	—	—	,, ...	,,
81407	24537	Iviisi	,, ,,	,, ...	,, ...	—	—	,, ...	,,
81408	24548	Magombi	,, ,,	,, ...	,, ...	—	—	,, ...	,,
81409	24561	Magombi	,, ,,	,, ...	2 Jan. 1907 ...	24 Jan. 1907 ...	Influenza	,, ...	,,
81410	24547	Chamai	,, ,,	,, ...	Nil	—	—	,, ...	,,
81411	24550	Chikopa	,, ,,	,, ...	,, ...	—	—	,, ...	,,
81412	24549	Mandaliza	,, ,,	,, ...	,, ...	—	—	,, ...	,,
81413	24545	Kachinda	,, ,,	,, ...	,, ...	—	—	,, ...	,,
81414	24540	Chitembu	,, ,,	,, ...	,, ...	—	—	,, ...	,,
81415	24544	Banoli	,, ,,	,, ...	,, ...	—	—	,, ...	,,
81416	24542	Matikiti	,, ,,	,, ...	,, ...	—	—	,, ...	,,
81417	24551	Chekopa	,, ,,	,, ...	10 Dec. 1906 ...	20 Jan 1907 ...	Chicken pox ...	,, ...	,,
81418	24556	Mderera	,, ,,	,, ...	Nil	—	—	,, ...	,,
81419	24534	Kuzunwa	,, ,,	,, ...	,, ...	—	—	,, ...	,,
81420	24532	Nyamsuka	,, ,,	,, ...	30 Nov. 1906 ...	4 Dec. 1906 ...	Cough	,, ...	,,
81421	24557	Gadimika	,, ,,	,, ...	Nil	—	—	,, ...	,,
81422	24539	Chindiza	,, ,,	,, ...	,, ...	—	—	,, ...	,,

Krugersdorp Passport No.	Pretoria Passport No.	Name of Native.	Nature of Employment.	Deaths.	Date of Admission to Hospital.	Date of Discharge from Hospital.	Nature of Disease.	Health during Period.	Date of Return Home.
81423	24538	Janiosi	Drilling underground	Nil	Nil	—	—	Good	12 Feb. 1907.
81424	24546	Seremani	„ „	„	„	—	—	„	„
81425	24536	Machiola	„ „	„	„	—	—	„	„
81426	24553	Zirabantu	„ „	„	„	—	—	„	„
81427	24555	Widiani	„ „	„	3 Jan. 1907 ...	10 Jan. 1907 ...	Cough	„	„
81428	24535	Tansi	„ „	„	Nil	Nil	—	„	„
81429	24558	Lubaria	„ „	„	„	—	—	„	„
81430	24543	Kazitya	„ „	„	„	—	—	„	„
81431	24541	Tameola	„ „	„	„	—	—	„	„
81432	24552	Matekenya	„ „	„	„	—	—	„	„
81433	24533	Kachuta	„ „	„	„	—	—	„	„

TERRITORIAL ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY FROM DISEASE AMONGST NATIVES RECRUITED FROM AREAS NORTH OF LATITUDE 22° AND EMPLOYED ON ALL MINES AND WORKS IN PROCLAIMED LABOUR DISTRICTS (EXCLUSIVE OF NATIVES EMPLOYED BY CONTRACTORS), FOR THE PERIOD JULY, 1906, TO DECEMBER, 1906.

Territory.	July, 1906.			August, 1906.			September, 1906.			October, 1906.			November, 1906.			December, 1906.			July to December, 1906.		
	E.	D.	Rate.	E.	D.	Rate.	E.	D.	Rate.	E.	D.	Rate.	E.	D.	Rate.	E.	D.	Rate.	E.	D.	Rate.
Beira and Chinde	65	—	—	63	—	—	52	1	230·8	69	—	—	85	—	—	97	—	—	72	1	27·8
British Central Africa Protectorate	1,801	11	73·3	1,691	13	92·3	1,603	4	29·9	1,527	11	86·4	1,253	8	76·6	961	2	25·0	1,473	49	66·5
German South-West Africa ...	503	4	95·4	502	5	119·5	525	5	114·3	554	4	86·6	556	5	107·9	500	4	96·0	523	27	103·3
Mozambique	1,967	6	36·6	1,904	2	12·6	1,843	1	6·5	2,037	3	17·7	2,319	23	119·0	2,554	13	61·1	2,104	48	45·6
North-Eastern Rhodesia and Fort Jameson.	747	8	128·5	734	6	98·1	719	5	83·4	677	2	35·5	659	1	18·2	627	1	19·1	694	23	66·3
Nyassa	221	4	217·2	221	3	162·9	211	—	—	215	—	—	271	—	—	349	1	34·4	248	8	64·5
Southern Rhodesia	1,924	10	62·4	1,628	6	44·2	1,311	11	100·7	1,049	5	57·2	871	4	55·1	866	—	—	1,275	36	56·5
Zambesia, Quilimane, and Tete ...	815	2	29·4	759	1	15·8	770	1	15·6	908	2	26·4	1,127	6	63·9	1,366	10	87·8	958	22	45·9

Native Affairs Department,
Transvaal.

E. = Average number of Natives employed.
D. = Deaths from disease.
Rate. = Rate per thousand per annum.

Total death rate ... ... 30·3
Death rate from all tropical areas ... ... 58·3
Death rate exclusive of tropical areas ... 27·9

STATEMENT SHOWING TERRITORIALLY THE RELATION OF THE MORTALITY PERCENTAGE TO THE EMPLOYMENT PERCENTAGE AMONGST NATIVES EMPLOYED ON ALL MINES AND WORKS IN PROCLAIMED LABOUR DISTRICTS (EXCLUSIVE OF NATIVES EMPLOYED BY CONTRACTORS), FOR THE PERIOD JULY, 1906, TO DECEMBER, 1906.

Territory.	Number of Deaths.	Percentage of Mortality.	Average No. of Natives Employed.	Percentage of Supply.	Relation, Plus or Minus of Mortality Percentage to Employment Percentage.	Death Rate per 1000 per Annum.
Beira and Chinde	1	·1	72	·1	—	27·8
British Central Africa Protectorate ...	49	3·4	1,473	1·6	+ 1·8	66·5
German South-West Africa	27	1·9	523	·6	+ 1·3	103·3
Mozambique	48	3·4	2,104	2·2	+ 1·2	45·6
North-Eastern Rhodesia and Fort Jameson.	23	1·6	694	·7	+ ·9	66·3
Nyassa	8	·6	248	·3	+ ·3	64·5
Southern Rhodesia	36	2·5	1,275	1·4	+ 1·1	56·5
Zambesia, Quilimane, and Tete ...	22	1·5	958	1·0	+ ·5	45·9
Total, Tropical areas	214	15·0	7,347	7·8	+ 7·2	58·3
Total, exclusive of Tropical areas	1,211	85·0	86,759	92·2	— 7·2	27·9
Grand total	1,425	100·0	94,106	100·0	—	30·3

No. 21.

THE COMMISSIONER OF THE BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA PROTECTORATE to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

(Received March 25, 1907.)

[*Answered by despatch transmitting copies of Nos.* 23 *and* 25 *and by No.* 29.]

Government Offices, Zomba, British Central Africa,
February 4, 1907.

MY LORD,

WITH reference to Your Lordship's telegram, No. 21, of the 8th of November last,* informing me that as a further experiment for the year 1906 the recruitment was approved of 1,000 additional natives of British Central Africa for the Transvaal mines under certain conditions, I have the honour to enclose a report from the Superintendent of Native Affairs from which it will be seen that 500 natives have, under this permit, left the Protectorate for the Transvaal to work at the Premier Diamond Mine.

2. I understand that time did not allow of more labourers being recruited before the end of the year.

3. These 500 men are from Fort Johnston, in the South Nyasa district. They are Yaos, and are a healthy, sturdy lot. Judging from previous experience it would appear to be probable that the death-rate will be lower among these Yaos than has previously been the case with regard to natives recruited from districts west of Lake Nyasa.

4. The recruiting season under the existing arrangement has now closed until the 1st of July, and I shall be glad to hear from Your Lordship in due course whether further recruiting is to be permitted between July and December, 1907.

I have, &c.,
ALFRED SHARPE,
Commissioner.

* No. 14.

Enclosure in No. 21.

SUPERINTENDENT OF NATIVE AFFAIRS, Zomba, to COMMISSIONER.

SIR, January 16, 1907.

I HAVE the honour to report that 515 natives of the South Nyasa district have been examined by Dr. Davey at Chiromo for service in the Transvaal. Of these, 15 were rejected, and the remaining 500 have been passed as being of fair average physique, of good health and fit to proceed to the Transvaal to work at the Premier Diamond Mine. These 500 natives are now on their way to Chinde in charge of Mr. L. Boardman, who recruited them. No more men will be recruited this season.

I have, &c.,
J. CHAS. CASSON,
Superintendent of Native Affairs.

No. 22.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE to THE GOVERNOR OF THE TRANSVAAL.

MY LORD, Downing Street, March 28, 1907.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 3rd of March,* covering reports on the health of natives from British Central Africa employed on the Premier Diamond Mine and on the Transvaal gold mines.

2. I have been glad to note the substantial reduction of the death-rate; but I must point out that it is still more than twice as high as the death-rate of natives recruited in non-tropical areas.

3. In view of this fact, and of the circumstances that the employment of a fresh batch of 480 natives of British Central Africa had just begun on the Premier Mine at the date of the Pass Commissioner's report, I should prefer to await returns of the mortality among British Central Africa natives for the first three months of the current year before deciding whether further recruitment in British Central Africa for the Premier Mine can be permitted. You will no doubt communicate a summary of the returns to me by telegraph.

4. I understand from the Commissioner of British Central Africa that the recruiting season does not begin until the 1st of July.

I have, &c.,
ELGIN.

No. 23.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE to THE GOVERNOR OF THE TRANSVAAL.

[*Answered by No.* 24.]

MY LORD, Downing Street, April 5, 1907.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you a copy of a despatch† from His Majesty's Commissioner for the British Central Africa Protectorate regarding the recruitment of natives of the Protectorate for work on the Premier Diamond Mine.

You will observe that in this despatch reference is made to the departure of 500 natives; but in the enclosure to your despatch of the 3rd of March,* it is mentioned that 485 natives from British Central Africa have recently been introduced into the Premier Mine.

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* No. 20. † No. 21.

I should be glad to be informed whether anything is known as to the apparent failure of 15 natives to reach the Transvaal after leaving the Protectorate with the others.

I have, &c.,
ELGIN.

No. 23A.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

(Received April 20, 1907.)

MY LORD, High Commissioner's Office, Johannesburg, March 30, 1907.

WITH reference to my despatch of January 28th,* I have the honour to enclose a copy of a reply received from the Resident Commissioner's Private Secretary to my despatch of January 26th, respecting the heavy mortality amongst native mine labourers in Southern Rhodesia during the quarter ended September 30th, 1906, together with copies of despatches which I have addressed to the Administrator and Resident Commissioner on the subject.

2. As regards paragraph 13 of my despatch to the Administrator, I refer Your Lordship to my despatch of to-day's date.*

I have, &c.,
SELBORNE,
High Commissioner.

Enclosure 1 in No. 23A.

PRIVATE SECRETARY TO RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, Salisbury, to IMPERIAL SECRETARY.

SIR, Resident Commissioner's Office, Salisbury, February 21, 1907.

BY direction of the Resident Commissioner I have the honour to refer to His Excellency the High Commissioner's despatch of 26th January, relative to the rate of mortality from disease amongst native miners during the quarter ended September 30th, 1906.

I enclose copy of correspondence with the Administration in this connection, and extracts from certain of the reports received from Compound Inspectors during the period in question.

It will be noticed that the high rate of mortality is due to severe epidemics of pulmonary complaints amongst alien natives, who, chiefly owing to their long journey and scarcity of food and clothing, arrive at the mines in a condition which renders them, during cold weather, very susceptible to these diseases.

I learn, however, that the Rhodesia Native Labour Bureau is giving this matter careful attention, and is making such arrangements as will ensure the labourers arriving at the mines in a fit condition.

With the advent of the warm weather there was less sickness from pulmonary complaints, but during the last quarter of 1906 scurvy was prevalent at some of the larger mines, to which disease a number of native labourers succumbed.

There is little doubt that in many instances mine managers are embarrassed by the unwillingness of their native employees to submit to medical treatment, and to the great difficulty experienced in persuading them to enter a hospital.

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* Not printed.

The evident inability of natives coming from north of the Zambesi River to withstand the cold climate may necessitate the limiting of the period during which they are recruited to the summer months; this is also the season of the year when local labour is scarce, and when the assistance of a labour bureau is most welcomed by employers of native labour.

I have, &c.,
C. DOUGLAS-JONES,
Private Secretary.

The Imperial Secretary,
Johannesburg.

SIR, Resident Commissioner's Office, Salisbury, February 4, 1907.

WITH reference to your letter, No. 201, of the 7th November last, forwarding returns of mortality amongst Europeans and native miners in Southern Rhodesia for the quarter ended 30th September, 1906, I have the honour, by direction, to transmit, for your information, a copy of a despatch received from His Excellency the High Commissioner drawing attention to the fact that during this period the mortality from disease amongst native miners was 84.12 per thousand per annum, and requesting to be furnished with a report on the subject.

I enclose for your information a copy of the mortality return for Southern Rhodesia for the quarter ended 30th September, as forwarded to His Excellency. This return is compiled from the particulars furnished by you.

It will be found on examining the reports of the Compound Inspectors for the months of July, August and September, 1906, that at the Sabiwa Mine, in Division II., Matabeleland, there were severe epidemics of pneumonia and dysentery. During the same period 42 natives are reported to have died of pneumonia at the Ayrshire Mine, Lomagundi district; during the months of August and September 37 died at the Golden Valley Mine, Hartley district; and during September 13 at the Globe and Phœnix Mine. This mortality is reported as having chiefly occurred amongst natives from north of the Zambesi River.

The Chief Native Commissioner for Matabeleland in his review of the Reports of Inspectors of Native Compounds for July, 1906, states that the Inspector of Division II. had been instructed to make a special inspection of the accommodation provided for patients at the Sabiwa Mine and to report fully thereon. I should be obliged if I may be furnished with a copy of this report.

It would appear that the high death-rate from disease amongst native miners for the period in question is due to a prevalence of pulmonary complaints amongst natives from north of the Zambesi River, to which they seem particularly susceptible owing to the emaciated condition in which they arrive at the mines, and to the cold, which at this season of the year is often severe.

As efforts are being made to increase the supply of labour from this source His Honour the Resident Commissioner would be glad to learn whether any steps are being taken to guard against a recurrence of similar epidemics during the coming cold season, and for such information as will enable him to comply with His Excellency's request.

I have, &c.,
C. DOUGLAS-JONES,
Private Secretary.

The Chief Secretary,
Salisbury.

SIR, Chief Secretary's Office, Salisbury, February 20, 1907.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your communication, No. 13, of the 4th instant, forwarding copy of a despatch received from His Excellency the High Commissioner on the subject of the rate of mortality amongst natives

employed on mines in Southern Rhodesia during the quarter ended 30th September, 1906, requesting to be furnished with a report on the matter.

In reply, I have the honour to state that the high death-rate has for a considerable time been receiving the most earnest attention of the Administration, and full enquiry is made whenever any excessive mortality is reported in the monthly return of the Compound Inspectors.

It has been found that by far the larger proportion of the deaths are traceable to the unfit condition in which alien natives have in the past reached the mines after the long journey from their homes.

The following table shows the percentage of the alien and local natives employed on the mines during the six months ended 31st December, 1906 :—

	Matabeleland.		Mashonaland.	
	Local.	Foreign.	Local.	Foreign.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
July	40½	59½	31¾	68¼
August	38	62	30	70
September	38½	61½	29½	70½
October	35½	64½	27	73
November	34½	65½	21½	78½
December	34	66	23	77

From this table it will be noted that the ratio of alien natives employed increases during the later months of the year.

The Rhodesia Native Labour Bureau, since its recent re-organisation in July, has made arrangements for clothing and feeding natives proceeding to employment, especially those from North-Eastern Rhodesia, among whom the mortality at the Ayrshire, Giant, and Sabiwa Mines was for a few months particularly marked. Steps have also been taken to impress upon all mining companies the great importance and necessity of careful attention being paid to the diet of northern, and, indeed, all natives employed on the mines.

The hospital and medical arrangements at those mines where the mortality has been serious, have been and are subject of constant representations to the mine managers, with the result that considerable improvement is steadily being paid in that direction, though, as is well known, it is very difficult to get natives to submit to hospital treatment in any form.

It may be added that the death-rate per annum per thousand given in the quarterly returns can hardly be accepted as a correct estimate for the year. The death-rate per thousand taken from the quarter returns for the year 1906 is 58.37, but exclusive of the Sabiwa, Ayrshire and Giant Mines the death-rate is 42.71.

As requested, I beg to transmit herewith copy of special report on the Sabiwa Mine furnished by the Inspector of Compounds, Division II., and would specially draw attention to the refusal of natives to sleep in the brick compound provided for them, and to take medicine when ill, which, no doubt, conduced largely to the serious nature of sickness at the mine.

I have, &c.,
H. H. CASTENS,
Chief Secretary.

The Secretary
to His Honour the Resident Commissioner,
Salisbury.

SPECIAL REPORT on the Health Conditions at the Sabiwa Mine, Gwanda District.

The health of the North-Eastern Rhodesia natives on this mine has been very bad, but other natives appear to enjoy fairly good health.

364 natives arrived from Fort Jameson two months ago under a twelve months' agreement of service, of the following tribes:—Awemba, Achewa, Angoni and Asenga; these natives were accompanied by an Assistant Native Commissioner, who remained with them for two weeks to see them fairly settled, and to observe the conditions under which they were to work. I attach one of the Agreements or Conditions of Service.

Shortly after their arrival they objected to living and sleeping in the brick compound where they were quartered, and insisted upon sleeping in the open square. Even their Assistant Native Commissioner could not induce them to sleep inside. Since then they have been allowed to erect huts for themselves close to the compound.

It is an undoubted fact that these natives are unable to stand the cold climate, and should not be brought into this country before the month of September, and then only on an eight months' agreement, so as to enable them to be back at their kraals before the winter. It is useless to try and get them to work on a cold day, they are unable to do it, and when the cold weather lasts for a few days they develop bad colds and pneumonia. So far out of the 364 natives 24 have died, and 33 have deserted. Cause of deaths: 20 pulmonary, 1 malaria, 2 dysentery, and 1 gangrene.

A new arrangement has been made as regards their pay; they now draw 12s. 6d. at the mine, and the balance, 10s., is deferred.

The sick natives require a deal of watching, and dread any medical examination, and will not willingly take medicine, and on the first opportunity will run into the bush and lie there until found and brought back to compound.

As regards medical attention, I would like to point out that there is only one doctor in the district of Gwanda, and he is also District Surgeon; he is required to make weekly visits to each mine; these are more or less flying visits, and if it happens that he is ill or called away to attend the High Court as a witness, then no medical man is nearer than Bulawayo. I cannot see how one doctor can give satisfaction. At the Sabiwa 44 white and an average of 1,000 natives are employed.

I am informed that the Sabiwa and Blanket Mines will probably have a resident surgeon between them shortly.

I have requested the manager of the Sabiwa Mine to have about six good hospital huts built, and have same enclosed within a stockade, and under a responsible native, who will prevent sick natives from wandering in the bush.

H. A. ELLIOTT,
Inspector of Native Compounds.

Gwanda,
August 22, 1906.

EXTRACT from Review of Reports of Inspectors of Native Compounds for the month of July, 1906.

* * * * * * * *

Health.

Sixty-two deaths were reported as against thirty-one for the previous month. At the Sabiwa Mine alone there were twenty-three deaths; a large number

of natives from northern Zambesi are employed here; the Inspector has been instructed to make a special inspection of the accommodation provided for the patients at this mine and to report fully thereon, giving full particulars in regard to medical attendance, &c.; with this exception the health of the natives employed on all mines is good.

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HERBERT J. TAYLOR,
Chief Native Commissioner.

Chief Native Commissioner's Office,
Bulawayo,
August 20, 1906.

EXTRACT from Report of the Inspector of Native Compounds, Division (2), Matabeleland, for the month of July, 1906.

* * * * * * * *

Health.

The health has not been satisfactory, deaths total 39, mostly from pneumonia, the majority being of natives north of the Zambesi. Deaths at the Sabiwa Mine number 23. I have informed the manager that I am not satisfied with the treatment of the sick natives. That they must receive more consideration. That the hospital huts must be built away from the compound, and proper natives told off to look after the sick, or otherwise all sick natives must be sent to the District Hospital at Gwanda.

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H. A. ELLIOTT.

EXTRACT from the Report by the Inspector of Native Compounds, Lomagundi District, for the month of July, 1906.

Ayrshire Mine.

* * * * * * * *

As will be seen from the accompanying labour return the number of deaths was particularly heavy again, pneumonia being responsible for by far the greater number. Mattresses have been furnished to the hospital, and make the beds more comfortable, but I do not think that the patients appreciate them as they should.

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W. E. SCOTT,
Inspector of Native Compounds.

Lomagundi,
August 12, 1906.

EXTRACT from the Report of the Inspector of Compounds for the Hartley District for the month of July, 1906.

* * * * * * * *

Health.

The deaths of 41 natives were reported. Thirty-six of these deaths were due to pulmonary complaints and one to accidental drowning.

This heavy mortality appears to be due to the sharp cold which has been experienced during the month and to the weak state of many of the natives arriving

from the north. Also, to a certain extent, to the want of blankets and clothing. I noticed one gang of recently arrived natives in particular. Many of them were burnt about the chest and abdomen through sleeping too close to their fires in order to keep warm. It is, therefore, only natural that they should be susceptible to pulmonary complaints. At several of the mines the natives are supplied with blankets on arrival, where necessary, and I am endeavouring to arrange with all the mines to adopt this course.

From the Giant Mine only eight deaths are reported as against 15 for the previous month. There are some 800 natives employed on this mine, and every effort is made to cope with the sickness. On the occasion of my last visit I attended sick parade. Some 19 natives reported themselves sick and were examined by the District Surgeon. Three were at once admitted to hospital and the others, suffering from trivial complaints, were treated as out-door patients. I think that the health of the natives will rapidly improve with the warm weather. At all the mines visited sick natives appeared to receive good treatment, but I think that the Government Hospital at Hartley should be utilized to a greater extent. It is, however, extremely difficult to persuade natives to go into hospital, as the majority absolutely refuse to take advantage of it, preferring to remain with their brothers in the compound or in some secluded spot in the neighbourhood.

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STALEY N. G. JACKSON,
Inspector of Native Compounds.

Hartley,
August 8, 1906.

EXTRACT from Review of Reports of Inspectors of Native Compounds for the month of August, 1906.

* * * * * * * *

Health.

Eighty deaths were reported as against sixty-two for July.

With the exception of those employed in Division II. (Gwanda), the health of the natives is remarkably good. Of a total number of 8,964 natives employed in Divisions I., III. and IV. and at the Wankie Colliery, only thirty-four deaths occurred, three of which were the result of accidents. Of 2,829 natives employed in Division II., forty-six died.

At the Sabiwa Mine, where 880 boys are employed, there were twenty-six deaths, as against twenty-three for July, pneumonia being responsible for twelve deaths as against nineteen. Unfortunately dysentery appears to have broken out at this mine which has swelled the death-rate, no less than ten having succumbed to this disease; the question of having a permanent medical man on the mine is receiving the attention of the mine authorities, and I hope to be in a position to report shortly that this has been done; with the exception of this mine and the Blanket Mine, where ten deaths occurred, chiefly from pneumonia, the health at all other mines in the division is decidedly good.

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HERBERT J. TAYLOR,
Chief Native Commissioner.

Chief Native Commissioner's Office,
Bulawayo,
September 20, 1906.

EXTRACT from Report of the Inspector of Native Compounds, Division 2, Matabeleland, for the month of August, 1906.

* * * * * * * *

Health.

The health of the natives is still bad, but no doubt it will improve with the warm weather. Scurvy is on the increase. Six huts are being built at the Sabiwa Mine, these are to be used as hospitals for the various tribes working there.

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H. A. ELLIOTT,
Inspector of Native Compounds.

Gwanda,
September 1, 1906.

EXTRACT from the Report by the Inspector of Native Compounds, Lomagundi District for the month of August, 1906.

Ayrshire Mine.

* * * * * * * *

As will be noticed from the accompanying return the deaths have been very heavy, and that pneumonia has been the main cause of death.

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W. E. SCOTT,
Inspector of Native Compounds.

Lomagundi,
September 17, 1906.

EXTRACT from the Report of the Inspector of Compounds for the Hartley District for the month of August, 1906.

Health.

* * * * * * * *

There has been a considerable increase in the number of deaths as compared with the previous month, the figures being 69 as against 41. Of these 27 deaths occurred amongst natives employed on the Golden Valley Mine. In my Magisterial capacity I deemed it advisable to request the District Surgeon to visit the mine and report as to the nature of the outbreak and the adequacy of the means being adopted for the isolation and proper care of the persons infected. His report has been forwarded. He recommends the erection of a proper hospital hut with cement floor and canvas stretchers, and I shall take steps to secure the carrying out of his recommendation. The majority of the deaths were due to pulmonary complaints, and occurred among natives who had recently arrived from the north.

* * * * * * * *

At all the other mines visited the health of the natives was good. I may mention that several of the natives from the Golden Valley Mine died in the Hartley Government Hospital, and that a number absolutely refused to go to hospital.

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STALEY N. G. JACKSON,
Inspector of Native Compounds.

Hartley,
September 11, 1906.

EXTRACT from Review of Reports of Inspectors of Native Compounds for the month of September, 1906.

Health.

Eighty-two deaths were reported as against eighty for month previous, seven of which were the result of accident—in each case inquests were held; there has been a slight decrease in the number of deaths from pneumonia, and in view of the approach of the warm weather there should be a general improvement in the state of the health of natives from North-Eastern Rhodesia, who are so prone to suffer from the sudden changes in the climate.

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H. J. TAYLOR,
Chief Native Commissioner.

Chief Native Commissioner's Office,
Bulawayo,
October 23, 1906.

EXTRACT from Report of the Inspector of Native Compounds, Division 2, Matabeleland, for the month of September, 1906.

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Health.

Since the advent of the warm weather there has been a great improvement in the health of the natives employed on the mines, very few cases of pneumonia have proved fatal.

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H. A. ELLIOTT,
Inspector of Native Compounds,
Division 2.

Gwanda,
October 1, 1906.

EXTRACT from Report of the Inspector of Native Compounds, Divisions 3 and 4, Matabeleland, for the month of September, 1906.

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Health.

It will be noticed that there is an exceptionally high death-rate at the Globe and Phœnix. Most of these deaths occurred amongst newly arrived natives from the north, some of whom reached the mine in a weak and emaciated condition. Efforts are being made to reduce this death-rate by giving change of diet, isolating scurvy patients, of whom there are a large number, and by the destruction of infected huts.

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C. L. CARBUTT,
Inspector of Native Compounds.

EXTRACT from the Report by the Inspector of Native Compounds, Lomagundi District, for the month of September, 1906.

Ayrshire Mine.

* * * * * * * *

The number of deaths occurring comes to 15, of which number seven were caused by pneumonia.

The greater proportion of the natives employed on this mine come from north of the Zambesi, and suffer from the change of latitude a deal on first coming down.

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W. E. Scott,
Compound Inspector,
Lomagundi.

Extract from the Report of the Inspector of Compounds for the Hartley District for the month of September, 1906.

Health.

There has been a marked improvement in the health of the natives employed on the mines, but the mortality for the month was heavy. Fifty-one deaths were reported as against 69 for the previous month. As usual pneumonia has been the chief cause of sickness, but there were also a number of cases of scurvy. For the latter lime juice is being freely used. At all the mines visited the natives appeared to receive fairly good attention when ill.

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Staley N. G. Jackson,
Inspector of Native Compounds.

Hartley,
October 10, 1906.

Enclosure 2 in No. 23A.

High Commissioner to Administrator, Salisbury.

Sir, High Commissioner's Office, Johannesburg, March 30, 1907.

I have the honour to refer you to a letter, No. 13, of February 4th, addressed to the Chief Secretary by the Private Secretary to the Resident Commissioner on the subject of the high rate of mortality amongst native miners in Southern Rhodesia revealed by the returns for the quarter ended September 30th last, and to Mr. Castens's reply, No. 37, of February 20th.

2. I think that the disastrous sickness which is reported to be prevalent in various forms among the native mine labourers of Southern Rhodesia, demands serious attention, and that the Secretary of State will require some clearer evidence than is provided by the correspondence that measures of real efficacy are being taken to cope with it.

3. I enclose a copy of some notes which have been made in my office on the reports furnished by the Chief Secretary, and I shall be glad of your observations on the various points therein brought forward.

4. The outstanding features provided by the reports of the Inspectors of Native Compounds appear to be the great prevalence of pulmonary disease during the winter months, the weak and emaciated state in which the natives from the north of the Zambesi arrive at their destination, the inadequacy of the medical attendance and of the hospital accommodation and arrangements on some of the mines, and the possibly unsatisfactory nature of the diet provided on the Globe and Phœnix Mine. I also observe that the death-rate rules highest among the natives recruited in the Northern Territories, and that these natives supply by far the greater portion of the labour employed on the mines of both provinces.

5. I do not doubt that you will share my opinion that the continued fertility of the sources from which this great supply of alien labour is drawn is largely, if not entirely, dependent upon an improvement of the conditions under which it is obtained. I, indeed, regard it as a matter of pressing importance to the mining industry of Southern Rhodesia that its recruiting machinery should be carefully

overhauled and the defects which experience has shown to be existent and avoidable remedied without delay. I understand that the Secretary for Native Affairs in North-Western Rhodesia lately conferred with the authorities of the Rhodesia Native Labour Bureau with the object of making arrangements for the reception and treatment of native labourers from that territory, and that he is satisfied with the measures now taken for their well-being. I do not, however, know what is being done in a similar respect for the native labourers arriving from North-Eastern Rhodesia, and I fear, after perusing the reports which have been furnished to me, that the arrangements made are inadequate to a very serious degree.

6. I am assuming that the natives recruited are, at the time of commencing their journey to the mines, healthy and able-bodied men, and I do not propose to deal with the question of their requirements and health up to the time when they cross the border. These matters concern the Administration of North-Eastern Rhodesia, where I have no control as High Commissioner. My inquiry is directed towards the progress of the recruited natives through Southern Rhodesia to the scene of their labour, and their treatment when they arrive there.

7. The Inspector of Native Compounds in the Hartley district has reported that natives on reaching some of the mines under his supervision are burned about the chest and abdomen through sleeping too closely to their fires. Would these natives, who have exchanged the hot climate they are accustomed to for the comparatively cold temperature of a high plateau, do this if they were in possession of blankets?

8. I shall glad if you will ask the Rhodesia Native Labour Bureau to report upon the practicability or otherwise of instructing their agents in all cases to issue blankets to natives engaged by them. Also to provide with blankets all natives not possessing them who may arrive at any of the depôts which I understand are provided at intervals along the paths by which natives proceed to Southern Rhodesia. The cost of these blankets might be deducted from the first month's wages.

9. I feel much disturbed at the complaints made regarding the treatment of sick natives. Notwithstanding their partiality to "white man's medicine," it appears that they persistently refuse to enter hospital for treatment. I think it might be possible by the exercise of a little patience to overcome their objections.

10. I am strongly of opinion that large establishments like that of the Sabiwa Mine should include a resident doctor who, in co-operation with the Inspector of Native Compounds, will do everything in his power to bring about a reduction in the truly appalling death-rate.

11. This despatch has hitherto dealt principally with the mortality arising from pneumonia. I notice that during September there were a large number of cases of scurvy, many of which appear to have proved fatal, on the Globe and Phœnix Mine. You had occasion not long ago to ask the Medical Director to report on the high death-rate prevailing during the last quarter of 1905, when you elicited the fact that the mortality was mainly due to scurvy. In view of the experience which should have been gained then, I am not satisfied that all possible precautions have consistently been taken to guard against a recurrence of the disease. For example, when reporting on the Globe and Phœnix Mine in September the Inspector states that efforts were being made to reduce the death-rate by effecting a change of diet. I do not know whether effect has been given to this recommendation, but I think that the Administration should require the mine authorities to arrange a scale of rations of a kind upon which the natives are known to thrive, and that the Inspector should see that this scale is adhered to.

12. I am sending copies of this despatch and the correspondence on which it is based to the Secretary of State, and I trust that your reply will serve to convince His Lordship that the Southern Rhodesia Administration are not only thoroughly alive to the need for drastic reform, but that they are already taking steps in that direction. It may be of interest to you to know that recruiting for the Witwatersrand mines in British Central Africa is no longer permitted by His Majesty's Government, on account of the great mortality amongst natives from those regions, which, however, was considerably lower than that disclosed by your returns.

13. Since writing the foregoing I have seen the returns of mining mortality in Southern Rhodesia for the succeeding quarter to that reviewed in this despatch, and I notice that the native death-rate from disease was then 74.84 per thousand per annum. I shall be obliged if you will let me have a detailed report in regard to this quarter also, as none accompanied the return.

14. My general impression, after studying the reports and figures furnished, is that legislative steps are necessary in order to ensure adequate supervision by the Government of the conditions under which natives are employed in the Southern Rhodesia mines.

15. It cannot be too strongly impressed upon all concerned that to allow any proportion of this mortality to continue, owing to want of care, forethought, attention or reasonable expenditure, will be as stupid, when regarded from the point of view of business, as it will be indefensible, when regarded from the point of view of humanity.

I have, &c.,
SELBORNE,
High Commissioner

Sir William Milton, K.C.M.G.,
Administrator of Southern Rhodesia,
Salisbury.

Sabiwa Mine.

According to the reports furnished on this mine, where an average of 1,000 natives are employed, the number of deaths during July and August were 23 and 26, respectively, 31 of which were due to pneumonia. Out of 364 natives recruited in North-Eastern Rhodesia on a twelve months' agreement of service, during two months 20 died from pulmonary complaints, four from other diseases, and 33 deserted. This batch of natives are stated to have insisted on sleeping in the open air, in spite of the efforts of their Assistant Native Commissioner, who had accompanied them from North-Eastern Rhodesia, to induce them to sleep inside the brick compound provided for them. It is supposed that the Assistant Native Commissioner was able to elicit from the natives some reason for their professed aversion to the compound, and that he communicated it to the mine authorities with a view to any reasonable objection being met, but no information is given on this point. Sick natives on this mine are said to dread any medical examination and to be unwilling to take medicine, and the Inspector of Native Compounds reports: "I am not satisfied with the treatment of the sick natives, they must receive more consideration." The visiting doctor should be asked to give his report on these circumstances, as in view of the enormous death-rate such a state of things should not be allowed to continue. The medical attendance is reported to be infrequent and irregular, but this is due apparently to the fact that there is only one doctor in the district. The Inspector of Native Compounds was informed in August that the Sabiwa and Blanket Mines would probably have a resident surgeon between them shortly. The Chief Native Commissioner stated in September that the question of having a permanent medical man on the mine was receiving the attention of the mine authorities. The Chief Secretary's letter, however, does not state what, if anything, has been done in the direction of ensuring regular medical attendance.

Ayrshire Mine.

The Inspector of Native Compounds reports a heavy mortality on this mine during each of the three months, pneumonia being principally the main cause of death. No remark, however, is made on the subject by the Chief Native Commissioner in his reviews. The treatment of such natives on the Ayrshire Mine was subjected to strong criticism in the Inspector's reports of October and November, 1904. He complained then of the insufficiency of bedding provided in the hospital, and expressed the opinion that the cooking and nursing staff were capable of improvement. In August, 1906, the Inspector is able to report that the beds have been furnished with mattresses, but that the patients are still unappreciative. It

would be well if the Administration satisfied itself that no measure of responsibility for this lack of appreciation adheres to the mine authorities, by ascertaining whether the bedding now provided is in all respects suitable and adequate, and whether the cooking and nursing arrangements are what they should be.

Globe and Phœnix.

An exceptionally high death-rate is reported for September on the Globe and Phœnix Mine and is apparently attributable to the prevalence of scurvy. It is stated that efforts are being made to reduce this death-rate by, *inter alia*, a change of diet. The Administration has presumably satisfied itself that the diet is to be permanently improved and that lime juice is in general use on this mine.

Giant Mine.

800 natives are employed here but, although the death-rate is high (15 deaths occurred in July and eight in August apparently from pulmonary complaints), there does not appear to be a resident doctor. No report is made regarding the hospital arrangements on this mine.

Golden Valley.

Twenty-seven deaths, principally from pulmonary complaints, occurred here during August, and it was considered necessary to request the District Surgeon to visit and report on the mine. He recommended the erection of a proper hospital hut with cement floor and canvas stretchers; and here, again, it is to be noticed that a number of natives absolutely refused to go into hospital. The Chief Secretary does not state that the District Surgeon's recommendation has been carried out.

Hartley District.

The Inspector of Native Compounds reports upon the want of blankets and clothing, and that he had noticed that natives on arrival were in many cases burnt about the chest and abdomen through sleeping too close to their fires. He states that at several of the mines natives are supplied with blankets on arrival, where necessary, and that he is endeavouring to arrange with all the mines to adopt this course. Neither the Chief Native Commissioner nor the Chief Secretary comment upon this important aspect of the question of checking the severe outbreaks of pulmonary disease.

Enclosure 3 in No. 23A.

HIGH COMMISSIONER to RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, Salisbury.

SIR, High Commissioner's Office, Johannesburg, March 30, 1907.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Private Secretary's letter, No. 31, of February 21st, relative to the mortality on the Southern Rhodesia mines during the quarter ended September 30th, 1906, and to enclose a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to the Administrator on the subject.

30th March, 1907.

2. As regards paragraph 13 of my despatch, I refer you to your Private Secretary's letter, No. 38, of March 15th.

I have, &c.,
SELBORNE,
High Commissioner.

The Resident Commissioner
of Southern Rhodesia,
Salisbury.

No. 24.

THE GOVERNOR OF THE TRANSVAAL to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

(Received June 22, 1907.)

[*Answered by No. 25.*]

MY LORD, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, June 3, 1907.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 5th April,* I have the honour to enclose, for your information, a copy of a Minute from Ministers on the subject of the recruitment of native labourers from the British Central Africa Protectorate for work on the Premier Diamond Mine.

I have, &c.,
SELBORNE,
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 24.

MINISTERS to GOVERNOR.

(Minute No. 176.)

Prime Minister's Office, Pretoria, May 29, 1907.

With reference to His Excellency the Governor's Minute, No. 50/5/07, of the 26th ultimo, Ministers have the honour to forward, for His Excellency's information, the enclosed statement showing the number of British Central Africa natives who were recruited for service on the Premier Diamond Mine for the season 1906-7.

It will be seen that of 515 natives originally recruited only 488 arrived in the Transvaal, and therefore the wastage *en route* amounted to 27.

J. C. SMUTS.

WITWATERSRAND NATIVE LABOUR ASSOCIATION, LIMITED.

Statement with regard to British Central Africa natives recruited by the above Association during the season 1906-7.

Number of British Central Africa natives despatched		515
Number rejected *en route* to Johannesburg	14	
Number died *en route* to Johannesburg	9	
Number deserted *en route* to Johannesburg	1	
Number repatriated	1	
Number not arrived at Johannesburg	2	
		27
Received at Johannesburg:—		
11th February, 1907	189	
21st February, 1907	296	
28th February, 1907	1	
11th March, 1907	2	
		488
		515
Number of British Central Africa natives received at Johannesburg ...		488
Allotted as under:—		
Premier Diamond Mining Company, February 15th ...	171	
Premier Diamond Mining Company, February 25th ...	285	
Premier Diamond Mining Company, March 6th	9	
Premier Diamond Mining Company, March 15th	9	
Premier Diamond Mining Company, March 28th	8	
		482

* No. 23.

Died in Witwatersrand Native Labour Association's *depôt* (before allotment)	1	
1 native from dysentery on March 18th. Rejected by the Assistant Medical Officer as unfit for allotment, and repatriated on April 12th, 1907.		
1 native suffering from pneumonia	1	
		484
Balance in Witwatersrand Native Labour Association's compound, pending allotment		4
		488

Johannesburg,
May 15, 1907.

No. 25.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE to THE GOVERNOR OF THE TRANSVAAL.

[*Answered by No.* 39.]

MY LORD, Downing Street, July 3, 1907.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 3rd of June,* forwarding a Minute from your Ministers on the subject of the recruitment of natives from the British Central Africa Protectorate for work on the Premier Diamond Mine.

2. I should be glad to receive further information as to the high rate of mortality among these natives *en route*, the reason why 14 were rejected after the journey began, and also an explanation why two failed to arrive at Johannesburg.

I have, &c.,
ELGIN.

No. 26.

THE ACTING COMMISSIONER OF THE BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA PROTECTORATE to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

(Received 2.54 p.m., 10th July, 1907.)

TELEGRAM.

[*Answered by No.* 29.]

10th July. No. 17. Has any decision been arrived at with regard to recruiting for Transvaal mines? 2,000 or 3,000 natives are anxious to be recruited and if recruiting is not permitted large proportion would probably proceed of their own accord.—PEARCE.

No. 27.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE to THE GOVERNOR OF THE TRANSVAAL.

(Sent 12.15 p.m., 12th July, 1907.)

TELEGRAM.

[*Answered by No.* 28.]

12th July. No. 1. Referring to my despatch 28th March† please telegraph mortality statistics asked for. Commissioner British Central Africa wishes to know whether recruiting is desired this year.—ELGIN.

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* No. 24. † No. 22.

No. 28.

THE GOVERNOR OF THE TRANSVAAL to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

(Received 9.50 p.m., 15th July, 1907.)

TELEGRAM.

[*Answered by No.* 30.]

15th July. A. Your telegram of 12th July, No. 1.* Despatch† goes by mail to-day enclosing copy of Ministers' Minute in which they ask that recruiting for the Witwatersrand Gold Mines from all tropical areas may be resumed provided that—

(1.) Labourers arrive not earlier than 1st August nor later than 31st March.
(2.) Special care be taken under medical (? supervision) in selection of recruits.
(3.) No labourers be employed underground within one month of arrival.
(4.) Special medical surveillance be exercised while they are on mines.

General mortality rate among tropical natives for period 1st July, 1906, to 30th April, 1907, is 57 per 1,000. Numbers of British Central African labourers only employed in labour districts and death rates amongst them for first four months of this year are as follows:—January: employed 713, died 1; rate 16.8 per 1,000. February: employed 559, died 5; rate 107.3. March: employed 653, died 3; rate 55.1. April: employed 789, died 3; rate 45.6.—SELBORNE.

No. 29.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE to THE ACTING COMMISSIONER OF THE BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

(Sent 6.10 p.m., 24th July, 1907.)

TELEGRAM.

24th July. No. 19. Referring to your despatch, 4th February, and your telegram, No. 17, 10th July,‡ I am willing to allow up to 2,000 natives to be recruited from British Central Africa Protectorate for surface work on gold mines and for Premier Diamond Mine if required, but I am unable to consent to their employment on underground work.

I am also willing, provided that British South Africa Company and Administrator of North-Eastern Rhodesia raise no objections, that natives should be recruited from North-Eastern Rhodesia for surface work up to a limit to be fixed with the concurrence of the Administrator. I am telegraphing to Governor, Transvaal, accordingly.—ELGIN.

No. 30.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE to THE GOVERNOR OF THE TRANSVAAL.

(Sent 6.10 p.m., 24th July, 1907.)

TELEGRAM.

[*Answered by No.* 36.]

24th July. No. 1. Your telegram A 15th July.§ I regret that I cannot sanction employment of natives of British Central Africa Protectorate on underground work in gold mines in view of comparatively high mortality, in spite of fact that considerable proportion employed on Premier Mine, but I am willing that up to 2,000 should be recruited on conditions 1, 2, and 4 mentioned in your telegram, for surface work only on gold mines or for Premier Diamond Mine if required.

As regards natives of North-Eastern Rhodesia, provided that British South Africa Company and Administrator of North-Eastern Rhodesia raise no objection, I am willing that recruitment for surface work should take place of such numbers as may be asked for up to a limit to be fixed with the concurrence of the Administrator.

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* No. 27. † No. 31. ‡ Nos. 21 and 26. § No. 28.

I am informing Commissioner, British Central Africa Protectorate, accordingly.—ELGIN.

No. 31.

THE GOVERNOR OF THE TRANSVAAL to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

(Received August 3, 1907.)

[*Answered by No.* 33.]

MY LORD, Government House, Pretoria, July 15, 1907.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 6th August, 1906,* and to connected correspondence, respecting the recruitment of native labourers from tropical areas for work on the Witwatersrand gold mines, I have the honour to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a minute from my Ministers enclosing a copy of a letter from the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association on the subject.

2. I shall be glad if your Lordship will inform me at an early date, by telegraph, if possible, whether you agree with the views expressed in my Ministers' Minute, and if so, whether His Majesty's Government will allow the territories referred to to be opened up for labour recruiting under the special conditions recommended.

I have, &c.,
SELBORNE,
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 31.

MINISTERS to GOVERNOR.

(Minute. No. 311.)

Prime Minister's Office, Pretoria, July 10, 1907.

Ministers have the honour to invite the notice of His Excellency the Governor to the enclosed copy of a letter from the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association requesting that the Board of Management may be informed as to the future policy of the Government regarding the recruitment of native labour in the tropical regions of South Africa north of latitude 22°.

As His Excellency is aware, the question is one which has received a considerable amount of attention during the past three years, as between the representatives of the mining industry, the Transvaal administration, and the Imperial Government.

It does not seem necessary now to revert to the voluminous correspondence which has taken place upon this subject, and which has been carefully reviewed in the Annual Blue Books of the Native Affairs Department for the years 1904-5-6.†

Ministers would only refer, therefore, to the most recent report from the Commissioner for Native Affairs, dated the 30th July, 1906, and to His Excellency's covering despatch thereon to the Secretary of State for the Colonies of the 6th August, 1906.

In that report the general effect upon the health of native labourers from tropical areas during the period of their employment on the mines was critically surveyed up to the 30th June last year.

The present position with respect to recruiting restrictions and operations in the tropical regions is briefly set forth in the letter from the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, and the particular questions of policy upon which the consideration of Government is now asked, are also indicated therein.

In order to follow the mortality rate amongst labourers recruited from all territories north of latitude 22°, a statement is submitted showing the average numbers employed, the deaths from disease, and the death-rate per 1,000 per annum, during the years 1904-5, 1905-6, and the ten months 1st July, 1906, to 30th April, 1907.

It will be observed that whilst the average number of natives employed from each of the tropical territories has been maintained with little variation over the whole period, the average mortality rate, which was as high as 130·1 in 1904-5, fell

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* No. 6.

† For these Annual Reports see p. 101 of [Cd. 2401] (1903-4), p. 123 of [Cd. 2819], 1904-5, and p. 86 of [Cd. 3528] (1905-6).

in 1905 to 99·5, and has still further decreased since the 1st July last year to 57 per 1,000 per annum.

Although there has been such a pronounced improvement in the death-rate, it still compares unfavourably with the present average mortality of 30 per 1,000 amongst native labourers from the territories of the rest of South Africa.

It may, nevertheless, be said that the average death-rate since the 1st July last year is not so excessively high as to render it imperative upon the Government, on humanitarian grounds, to entirely prohibit the recruitment of labour from all areas north of 22°.

Such a high rate clearly points, however, to the necessity for placing certain restrictions upon recruiting operations, and for the adoption of particular precautions in regard to the selection and employment of recruits from those regions.

It might reasonably be suggested therefore:—

(1) That all the territories in question might be opened for active recruiting so that the recruits may arrive on the mines not earlier than the 1st August nor later than the 31st March;

(2) That special care be taken, under medical supervision, in the selection of recruits, and for the immediate rejection of those who may be found to be physically unfit for labour;

(3) That as a precautionary measure no natives thus recruited should be employed upon underground work within one month of their arrival on the mines; and

(4) That they be subject to special medical surveillance during that period under the Coloured Labourers Health Regulations.

Ministers are strongly impressed with the view that the labour question is of such economic importance to the whole of South Africa—especially at the present time—that any restrictions upon the natural development of its local sources of supply can only be justified upon the gravest grounds, and every effort to improve the health conditions should, therefore, be exhausted before any area is actually closed against the recruitment of labour.

Under the circumstances, Ministers express the hope that representations may be made by His Excellency to His Majesty's Government, with a view to opening up the territories referred to as soon as possible, under the special conditions recommended in this minute.

LOUIS BOTHA.

WITWATERSRAND NATIVE LABOUR ASSOCIATION.

SIR, Chamber of Mines Buildings, Johannesburg, May 30, 1907.

I AM directed by my Board of Management to address you on the subject of the recruiting of natives to work on the Witwatersrand from semi-tropical areas, *i.e.*, those north of latitude 22°.

I need not recapitulate the previous correspondence on this subject, which is in your possession, but as you are aware, the present position is as follows:—

(1) As regards British Central Africa, *i.e.*, the British Central Africa Protectorate and North-Eastern Rhodesia, the British and Transvaal Governments have prohibited the recruiting of natives for underground work on the gold mines, but agreed to the recruiting last year of 500 natives for work on the Premier Diamond Mine.

(2) As regards Portuguese territory north of latitude 22°, the Transvaal Government prohibits the recruiting of these natives during the winter, *i.e.*, from the beginning of March to the end of August, but allows recruiting in the remaining months of the year.

(3) As regards Southern Rhodesia, the Transvaal Government also prohibits recruiting during the winter, but raises no objection to recruiting during the summer. The administration of Southern Rhodesia, however, objects to recruiting at any time, on the ground that all the labour available is required for local purposes. Accordingly the regulations in force are such as practically to prevent recruiting for the Witwatersrand in Southern Rhodesia at any time.

For more than two years, it has been a matter of uncertainty whether, in view of the high rate of mortality among natives brought to work on the mines from all the above-mentioned areas, the Government would allow recruiting to continue in any or all of them, and if so, to what extent, and under what conditions. This uncertainty has naturally been an impediment to the extension of recruiting in semi-tropical territories. In spite of it, however, my Board has continued to maintain a staff in all the districts in question, so as to be able to carry on recruiting at such seasons, and to such extent as the Government might think proper to allow. But this expense is not one which can be continued indefinitely. My Board, therefore, venture to ask that they may be informed of the Government's future policy in the matter, in order that they may make their arrangements accordingly.

The definite points at issue appear to be as follows:—

(1) As regards British Central Africa and North-Eastern Rhodesia:

A. Is the Transvaal Government prepared to sanction recruiting from these territories, for underground work on the gold mines, and to negotiate with the Home Government to obtain the withdrawal of the prohibition which the Colonial Office has imposed, and can enforce through its control of the administration of those territories?

B. Is the Transvaal Government prepared to sanction the continuance of recruiting in these territories for work on the Premier Mine, and if so, under what conditions as to season of recruiting, number to be recruited, &c.? And if the answer is in the affirmative, will the Transvaal Government obtain the necessary consent of the Home Government?

An answer to these questions will enable my Board to decide on the course to be adopted. If recruiting is to be prohibited, it is naturally desirable to close down our present establishment in British Central Africa. If it is to be allowed for the Premier Mine only, my Board will then ascertain from that Company whether it is prepared to take over the recruiting arrangements there, or to make some agreement with this Association whereby they can be continued.

(2) As regards Portuguese territory north of latitude 22°:

Does the Transvaal Government propose to allow recruiting for the Witwatersrand from this territory to continue? If so, will recruiting be allowed during the whole year, or only during the summer months? A reply to this will enable arrangements to be made accordingly.

I may point out that the restriction of recruiting to the summer months only, necessarily lessens the scope of operations, because the expense of maintaining a large establishment, which would be idle for six months of the year, becomes prohibitive.

(3) As regards Southern Rhodesia:

Does the Transvaal Government agree to recruiting for the Witwatersrand from this territory: (a) during the whole year; (b) during the summer months only?

If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Transvaal Government negotiate with the Government of Rhodesia for the removal of the restrictions and charges which at present practically prevent recruiting?

I may mention that in case (3), the question of maintaining or abolishing an establishment does not at present arise, because in the past our operations in Southern Rhodesia have been conducted through the medium of the Rhodesian Native Labour Bureau. But in the other two cases, salaries have for some time been paid to officials and employés, and various maintenance expenses incurred, which could be reduced or abolished if recruiting is to be restricted or prohibited. For this reason my Board would be much obliged if you would convey to them at an early date the Government's decision on the points specified above.

I have, &c.,
C. W. Dix,
Secretary.

The Secretary for Native Affairs,
Pretoria.

TERRITORIAL ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY FROM DISEASE AMONGST NATIVES RECRUITED FROM AREAS NORTH OF LATITUDE 22° AND EMPLOYED ON MINES AND WORKS IN PROCLAIMED LABOUR DISTRICTS (EXCLUSIVE OF NATIVES EMPLOYED BY CONTRACTORS), FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1904 TO

Territory.	Year.	July.			August.			September.			October.			November.			December.		
		E.	D.	Rate.	E.	D.	Rate.	E.	D.	Rate.	E.	D.	Rate.	E.	D.	Rate.	E.	D.	Rate.
Beira and Chinde	1904-5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1905-6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1906-7	65	—	—	63	—	—	52	1	230·8	69	—	—	85	—	—	97	—	—
British Central Africa	1904-5	739	5	81·2	518	5	115·8	693	6	103·9	1,029	12	139·9	1,386	10	86·6	1,594	14	105·4
	1905-6	2,368	34	172·3	2,349	57	291·2	2,315	30	155·5	2,469	22	106 9	2,900	45	186·2	3,049	64	251·9
	1906-7	1,801	11	73·3	1,691	13	92·3	1,603	4	29·9	1,527	11	86·4	1,253	8	76·6	961	2	25·0
German South-West Africa	1904-5	667	—	—	668	11	197·6	661	11	119·7	659	11	200·3	634	15	283·9	611	6	117·8
	1905-6	592	5	101·4	604	7	139·1	586	7	143·3	588	4	81·6	606	10	198·0	528	14	318·2
	1906-7	503	4	95·4	502	5	119·5	525	5	114·3	554	4	86·6	556	5	107·9	500	4	96·0
Mozambique	1904-5	1,407	21	179·1	1 370	17	148·9	1,538	20	156·0	1,428	10	84·0	1,416	29	245·8	1,641	21	153·
	1905-6	1,888	14	89·0	1,823	9	59·2	1,759	10	68·2	1,862	4	26·6	1,914	8	50·2	2,046	23	134·9
	1906-7	1,967	6	36·6	1,904	2	12·6	1,843	1	6·5	2,037	3	17·7	2,319	23	119·0	2,554	13	61·1
North-Eastern Rhodesia and Fort Jameson ...	1904-5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1905-6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1906-7	747	8	128·5	734	6	98·1	719	5	83·4	677	2	35·5	659	1	18·2	627	1	19·1
Nyassa	1904-5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1905-6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1906-7	221	4	217·2	221	3	162·9	211	—	—	215	—	—	271	—	—	349	1	34·4
Southern Rhodesia	1904-5	785	1	15·3	1,086	4	44·2	1,502	9	71·9	1,930	9	56·0	2,095	2	131·7	2,225	17	91·7
	1905-6	5,112	69	162·0	5,262	38	86·7	5,296	30	68·0	4,838	48	119·1	4,418	46	124·9	4,212	30	85·5
	1906-7	1,924	10	62·4	1,628	6	44·2	1,311	11	100·7	1,049	5	57·2	871	4	55·1	866	—	—
Zambesia, Quilimane, and Teti	1904-5	682	14	246·3	743	15	242·3	1,228	5	48 9	1,547	48	372·3	1,562	26	199·7	1,611	25	186·2
	1905-6	1,596	18	135·3	1,610	16	119·3	1,572	5	38·2	1,333	6	54·0	905	10	132·6	735	6	98·0
	1906-7	815	2	29·4	759	1	15·8	770	1	15·6	908	2	26·4	1,127	6	63·9	1,366	10	87·8

Territory.	Year.	January.			February.			March.			April.			May.			June.			Average.		
		E.	D.	Rate.	E.	D.	Rate.	E.	D.	Rate.	E.	D.	Rate.	E.	D.	Rate.	E.	D.	Rate.	E.	D.	Rate.
Beira and Chinde ...	1904-5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1905-6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1906-7	105	1	114 3	102	1	117·6	90	—	—	102	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	84	3	35·7
British Central Africa	1904-5	1,576	13	99·0	1,652	19	138·0	1,780	13	87·6	2,117	14	79·4	2,138	26	145 9	2,333	36	185·2	1,463	173	118·3
	1905-6	2,805	32	136·9	2,607	32	147·3	2,573	34	158·6	2,466	24	116·8	2,295	28	146·4	2,180	19	104·6	2,531	421	166 3
	1906-7	713	1	16 8	559	5	107·3	653	3	55·1	789	3	45·6	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,155	61	52·8
German South-West Africa.	1904-5	609	7	137·9	610	4	78·7	604	3	59·6	596	2	40·3	588	5	102·0	583	5	102·9	624	80	128·2
	1905-6	456	4	105·3	482	4	99·6	505	1	23·8	498	1	24·1	493	1	24·3	497	3	72·4	536	61	113·8
	1906-7	456	2	52·6	466	3	77·3	432	2	55·6	424	1	28·3	—	—	—	—	—	—	492	35	71·1
Mozambique	1904-5	1,682	14	99·9	1,778	17	114·7	1,742	16	110·2	1,815	18	119·0	1,839	17	110·9	1,900	9	56·8	1,630	209	128·2
	1905-6	2,112	15	85·2	2,141	8	44·8	2,263	12	63·6	2,247	14	74·8	2,091	11	63·1	1,998	4	24·0	2,007	132	65·8
	1906-7	2,975	19	76·6	3,491	21	72·2	3,912	28	85·9	4,013	22	65·8	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,701	138	51·0
North-Eastern Rhodesia and Fort Jameson.	1904-5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1905-6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1906-7	494	—	—	425	1	28·2	321	2	74·8	271	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	567	26	45·8
Nyassa	1904-5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1905-6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1906-7	377	2	63·6	533	3	67·5	723	12	199·2	736	13	212·0	—	—	—	—	—	—	386	38	98·4
Southern Rhodesia ...	1904-5	2,329	19	97·9	2,424	17	84·2	2,769	20	86·7	2,967	21	84·9	3,902	42	129·2	4,721	102	259·3	2,393	2:4	118·6
	1905-6	3,929	19	58·0	3,624	11	36·4	3,415	13	45·7	3,212	9	33·5	2,977	9	36·3	2,701	4	17·8	4,083	326	79·8
	1906-7	881	2	27·2	903	2	26·6	872	1	13·8	879	1	13·7	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,118	42	37·5
Zambesia, Quilimane, and Teti.	1904-5	1,717	21	146·8	1,698	16	113·1	1,812	18	119·2	1,705	18	126·7	1,607	15	112·0	1,580	18	136·7	1,458	239	163·9
	1905-6	780	6	92·3	745	2	32·2	776	3	46·4	864	1	13·9	844	2	28·4	814	—	—	1,018	75	71·6
	1906-7	1,926	18	112·1	2,148	25	139·7	2,121	24	135·8	2,103	19	108·4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,404	108	76·8

E. = Average number of natives employed.
D. = Deaths from disease.
Rate = Mortality Rate per 1,000 per annum.

Total Average Mortality Rate, 1904-5 ... ... 130·1
" " " " 1905-6 ... ... 99·5
" " " " 1906-7 ... ... 57·0

Average number employed, 1904 7,568
" " " 1905 10,205
" " " 1906 7,907

No. 32.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR SOUTH AFRICA to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

(Received August 3, 1907.)

[*Answered by No.* 35.]

MY LORD, High Commissioner's Office, Johannesburg, July 15, 1907.

WITH reference to previous correspondence, I have the honour to transmit to you a copy of further correspondence with the Resident Commissioner relative to the mortality amongst native labourers on the Southern Rhodesia mines, together with a copy of a despatch from the Acting Administrator in reply to my despatch of March 30th last.†

2. I will address your Lordship further on the matter when I have received a report from the Resident Commissioner for which I have asked.

I have, &c.,
SELBORNE,
High Commissioner.

SCHEDULE OF ENCLOSURES.

1. To Resident Commissioner. June 20, 1907.
2. Resident Commissioner, Telegram, No. 26. June 26, 1907.
3. Resident Commissioner. June 20, 1907.
4. Telegram to Resident Commissioner, No. 31. July 10, 1907.

Enclosure 1 in No. 32.

HIGH COMMISSIONER to RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, Salisbury.

SIR, High Commissioner's Office, Johannesburg, June 20, 1907.

WITH reference to my despatch of March 30th, and subsequent correspondence, I have the honour to request that you will draw the attention of the Acting Administrator to the fact that I am still awaiting a reply to the despatch which I addressed to Sir William Milton on March 30th on the subject of native mortality in the Southern Rhodesian mines.

2. I shall also be glad if you will furnish me with a full report on the matter at your earliest convenience.

I have, &c.,
SELBORNE,
High Commissioner.

The Resident Commissioner of
Southern Rhodesia,
Salisbury.

Enclosure 2 in No. 32.

RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, Salisbury, to HIGH COMMISSIONER.

TELEGRAM.

June 26, 1907. No. 26. Your Excellency's despatch, No. 65/3, of 20th instant, received to-day, has crossed mine of same date. I propose to take no action unless further instructed.

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† Not printed.

Enclosure 3 in No. 32.

RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, Salisbury, to HIGH COMMISSIONER.

MY LORD, Resident Commissioner's Office, Salisbury, June 20, 1907.

WITH reference to Your Excellency's despatch of the 30th March last, I have the honour to transmit a despatch of the 17th instant, addressed by the Acting Administrator under flying seal to Your Excellency, on the subject of the high rate of mortality amongst native miners in Southern Rhodesia.

I have, &c.,
R. CHESTER MASTER,
Resident Commissioner.

His Excellency
The High Commissioner
The Right Honourable
The Earl of Selborne, G.C.M.G.,
&c., &c., &c.,
Johannesburg.

MY LORD, Administrator's Office, Salisbury, June 17, 1907.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Lordship's despatch, of the 30th March last, referring me to a letter of February 4th, 1907, addressed to the Chief Secretary by the Private Secretary to the Resident Commissioner, on the subject of the high rate of mortality amongst native mine labourers revealed by the return for the quarter ended September 30th last, and to the reply of the Chief Secretary of February 20th.

I have now the honour to attach, for your Lordship's information, copies of letters received from the following institutions, viz.:—The Rhodesia Native Labour Bureau; the Chamber of Mines, Salisbury; and the Rhodesia Chamber of Mines; in response to communications that were addressed to them on receipt of your Lordship's despatch.

These letters will, I think, show that the vital importance of taking all possible steps to secure the health of the natives is fully recognised by the Executives of the Chambers of Mines and the Bureau.

In justice to the present organisation for the recruiting of native labour I think it should be stated that the present Labour Bureau has only been in existence since July, 1906, and I trust that your Lordship will recognise that every effort has since been made by this body to remedy past defects which experience has brought to light.

With regard to the remarks contained in paragraphs 4, 6, 7, and 8 of your Lordship's despatch, I cannot do better than refer to the reply of the Manager of the Bureau, dated 22nd April, detailing the steps taken by the Bureau to ensure that natives recruited from the Northern Territories arrive at the Mines in a physically fit condition—paragraphs (*a*) to (*f*) and the following remarks:—

I am satisfied that the statements made by the Manager of the Labour Bureau are substantially correct, but though every care is taken of natives actually recruited by the Bureau, there are many instances, particularly in regard to natives from North-Eastern Rhodesia seeking employment here independently—where they arrive in an emaciated condition, due to having travelled long distances without food or blanket.

As a consequence of this the mortality amongst northern natives not recruited through the agency of the Bureau is undoubtedly high, but this cannot be ascribed to the lack of care or supervision on the part of the Bureau, and figures which include such natives, as stated by the Manager of the Bureau, do not represent the facts in regard to those natives for whom the Bureau is responsible.

The monthly returns of compound inspectors are closely examined and the attention of mine managers immediately drawn to excessive death-rate, want of hospital accommodation, sanitation, and other requisites necessary to the welfare of the native. Instructions have been issued that should the representations of

the Government inspectors be ignored, the management should immediately be proceeded against under the regulations published under Government Notice No. 132 of 1905, Part V. (attached).*

I may also state that new forms of returns, copies of which are enclosed, have recently been published under the provisions of the Mines and Minerals Ordinance, making it incumbent on mine managers and others to render monthly returns giving detailed information in regard to labourers employed.

The Administrator, under the authority vested in him by Section 153 of the Mines and Minerals Ordinance, 1903, has full powers to deal with and ensure adequate supervision of the conditions under which natives are employed, and I am advised that further legislation at present does not appear to be necessary.

With reference to the reply from the Rhodesia Chamber of Mines, the remarks of that body in connection with the classification of natives have received attention, as the forms referred to in the earlier part of this despatch will show. It will be noted from the returns sent in by the Rhodesia Chamber of Mines that that Chamber is using every endeavour to combat the epidemic stage of pulmonary diseases.

The figures given in regard to the mortality from pulmonary diseases in Matabeleland during the winter quarter, viz., July to September, are certainly very serious, the Gwanda District being chiefly responsible for this very unsatisfactory state of affairs.

I have already drawn your Lordship's attention to the remarks of the Manager of the Bureau in regard to the emaciated state in which natives coming down from the north independently arrive, which is clearly borne out by the statements contained in paragraph 5 of the letter from the Rhodesia Chamber of Mines.

Representations have, it will be noted, been made to the authorities of both Northern Territories, but notwithstanding this, natives continue to arrive from the north independently, and it is in a great measure due to this fact that pulmonary diseases are so rife amongst them.

In regard to the remarks of the Rhodesia Chamber of Mines in connection with the inadequacy of the medical attendance and of hospital accommodation on some of the mines, the Chamber would appear to a certain extent to assume that the responsibility for the lack of proper medical attendance rests with the Government, as is instanced by their assumption that the District Surgeon of Gwanda is responsible for the whole district. This, of course, is not the case, and I am informing the Executive of the Chamber that the District Surgeon is in the first instance a Government servant and has nothing to do with the care of natives on any private mines unless employed by the management as a private practitioner.

The remarks contained in paragraphs 8 to 13 of the Chamber's letter deal fully with the points raised in paragraph 11 of your Lordship's despatch in regard to the prevalence of scurvy and change of diet, and in particular in reference to the Globe and Phoenix Mine.

I am not prepared to discuss the figures given by the Chamber in those paragraphs, beyond saying that they do not, in some respects, agree with the returns which are rendered monthly to the Government by compound inspectors, but I can endorse their remarks in regard to the attention which is being paid to outbreaks of scurvy and change of diet. I may state in regard to the latter point that on representations made by me to the Rhodesia Chamber, a Committee was appointed by them to enquire into the whole subject and to consider certain recommendations submitted by the Medical Director, and I am glad to be able to inform your Lordship that the Chamber have, to a great extent, adopted these recommendations, and have issued a circular to all mines advising the adoption of a more varied diet, a copy of which I attach.

I would invite your Lordship's attention to paragraph 15 of the Chamber's letter in regard to the abhorrence of natives to enter hospital and to be treated for their ailments by " white man's " medicine.

With regard to the remarks contained in paragraphs 19 and 20 of this letter, while I am not prepared to agree wholly with what is there stated, I cannot help feeling that there is a very great deal in the contention of the Chamber.

With reference to paragraph 13 of your Lordship's despatch, I enclose statements specifying the diseases from which natives died on the mines during the

* Not reprinted.

quarter ended 31st December last. From these statements it will be seen that pneumonia, scurvy, and dysentery accounted for a large proportion of the mortality, and that the majority of deaths occurred at the Globe and Phoenix, the East Gwanda, and the Sabiwa. As regards the Globe and Phoenix I may say that the management and the hospital accommodation at this mine are in every way satisfactory and the latter is in the special charge of a medical practitioner employed by the mine.

Owing to the exceptionally high death-rate on the East Gwanda and Sabiwa Mines, a special investigation was made, which disclosed the fact that the diseases had occurred chiefly amongst the first gangs of natives recruited for these mines in Northern Rhodesia. Steps were at once taken to compel the mine managers to make special efforts to protect these natives and prevent a recurrence of disease amongst them.

That the management of these mines is now more effectively coping with the conditions is shown by the fact that the death-rate has been steadily decreasing, the decrease for the quarter ended 31st March, 1907, being most marked.

A decrease in the mortality generally will be noticed for the quarter ended 31st December as compared with the previous quarter, and the returns for the quarter ended 31st March last show a still further decrease in the rate.

I am convinced that the Executive of the various Mining Institutions and also the mine managers are fully alive to the absolute necessity of paying especial attention to the care of alien natives, and though it is to be feared that the death-rate amongst northern natives—who prefer to seek work independently and not through the Bureau—may still exceed the normal rate, I look forward to a progressive improvement in the conditions.

From the enclosed copy of Government Notice No. 77 of 1907,* it will be seen that an Inspector of Mines for Southern Rhodesia has been appointed in terms of the "Mines and Minerals Ordinance, 1903." The duties and powers of such an officer are detailed in Section 137 of the Ordinance, which provides for the inspection of mining locations by a duly authorised official. The Inspector's attention will, however, be chiefly directed towards seeing that the rules and regulations which have been issued under the Ordinance by Government Notices are being observed and generally that proper precautions are adopted to secure the safety of miners.

The inspection of native compounds and hospitals on mines will continue to be performed by officers of the Native Department.

I have, &c.,
THOMAS C. SCANLEN,
Acting Administrator.

His Excellency
The High Commissioner,
Johannesburg.

The Rhodesian Native Labour Bureau,
P.O. Box 152, Bulawayo, April 22, 1907.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 13th instant embodying extract from a despatch received by His Honour the Administrator from His Excellency the High Commissioner.

The Bureau in the first place wish to bring to the notice of His Honour the Administrator that the period dealt with by His Excellency is prior to the time when the Bureau, as at present constituted, commenced operations. Further, that the old Bureau did not carry on recruiting operations in Northern Territories.

The Bureau wish to assure His Excellency that every care is taken for the well-being of natives recruited by the Bureau in the Northern Territories, and especially to refute the statement that natives recruited by the Bureau in North-Eastern Rhodesia are not supplied with blankets, and to state emphatically that all natives recruited by them in that territory have been and are supplied with blankets when contracted, either at Fort Jameson or Kasama and before com-

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* Not reprinted.

mencing their journey south. A misunderstanding on this point may possibly have arisen owing to a report made by the Compound Inspector for the Gwelo District in January last which reads as follows:—

"I wish to call attention to the state of destitution that many natives arrive at the mines. Many of them are without blankets and are so weak that they are unfit for work. This refers to those who come chiefly from the north of the Zambesi. Some of these natives have come down themselves and others been recruited by the Labour Bureau.

"Natives who come without blankets do not, in many cases, wish to purchase them, but prefer to use an old sack or two, which they pick up about the mines. The consequence is that these natives come out of the hot mine into the cool air above and catch pneumonia.

"I understand that the Labour Bureau has, in many cases, supplied blankets, but I am unable to say if it has done so in all cases or if the natives who arrive without blankets have come down of their own accord.

"With regard to the starved condition some of these natives arrive in, cannot steps be taken to prevent it as much as possible?"

I give below the reply addressed to the Chief Native Commissioner of Matabeleland and dated 11th February, 1907, in connection therewith:—

"Blankets.—All natives recruited in North-Eastern Rhodesia by the Bureau are supplied with blankets. Natives recruited in North-Western Rhodesia are, as far as possible, induced to take blankets, and I find, on looking into the figures, that about 80 per cent. of them do so. The Bureau will make efforts, through the North-Western Rhodesia Government, to induce every native to take a blanket.

"Food.—All natives recruited by the Bureau are supplied with food of the standard quantity and quality. I think it will be found that if any natives recruited through the Bureau have arrived in the starved condition complained of, that they have been recruited at Feira by our agent there, after having come long distances from places in North-Eastern Rhodesia, and not through the Bureau's agent. These boys are offered blankets by our agent at Feira and, in many cases, take them. They are also, of course, supplied with the standard quantity and quality of food for the remainder of the journey from Feira to the mines they go to work on.

"These natives so recruited by our agents, unless supplied with food, and, when they require it, blankets, go down all the way to the mines by themselves and arrive even in worse condition than they do to-day.

"The Bureau are quite aware of the condition in which many northern natives, who do not come through that organisation, arrive at the mines, and it would undoubtedly be better for the natives and all concerned if all natives from the Northern Territories came through the Bureau."

I may add in connection with the above letter that at the instance of the Bureau, the North-Western Rhodesia Government now insist on all natives taking blankets.

With regard to the question of burns on natives' bodies, I may say that the Bureau are informed by some of our officials who have travelled in North-Eastern Rhodesia that natives, even in their own country and when they have blankets, frequently get burnt owing to sleeping too close to their fires.

I have the honour to furnish in detail the steps taken by the Bureau for the purpose of endeavouring to ensure that natives arrive at the mines in a physically fit condition:—

(*a*) All natives recruited in Northern Territories by the Bureau are medically examined before leaving Fort Jameson, Kalomo, or Livingstone, or wherever they start from on their actual journey south.

The instructions given to the medical officers are that the examination must be strict, not only with regard to the native's present state of health, but also with a view to his physical fitness to work on the mines. That the examination is severe is borne out by the fact that as many as 25 per cent. out of some of the batches of natives recruited in North-Eastern Rhodesia have been rejected.

(*b*) Blankets are issued to all natives recruited by the Bureau in North-Eastern and North-Western Rhodesia. It has also been arranged that jerseys be issued to all North-Eastern natives recruited by that organisation.

All natives are supplied with ample food of standard quality for the journey, whether they are proceeding by rail or road. In the latter case they are issued food at depôts on the road.

(*c*) The condition of natives on arrival and before proceeding to the mines is carefully examined by a responsible official of the Bureau, and, if the slightest doubt as to their fitness for work is felt, a further medical examination is made, on which, should it prove unsatisfactory, the native is at once medically treated, or, if the Medical Officer considers more advisable, returned to his home.

(*d*) Every gang of natives is accompanied by a responsible messenger from the point of recruitment to the Bureau depôt and from there on to the mines. Rest houses are also provided en route.

(*e*) Repatriation has been arranged for all natives recruited in North-Western or North-Eastern Rhodesia.

(*f*) Care is being taken in all cases that the native receives at least the minimum wage he contracts for, and returns are called for and received from the Native Department from time to time to ensure this.

In cases of short or non-payment of wages, the proper officials are communicated with and steps taken through them to take proceedings against the offending party. In the meanwhile no further labour is supplied to the offending party until the matter has been dealt with satisfactorily.

A Committee of the Bureau has been going carefully into the question of the diet of natives and their recommendations have been forwarded to the mines.

The Bureau would respectfully submit to His Honour the Administrator that as long as natives from the Northern Territories, and especially North-Eastern Rhodesia come into Southern Rhodesia without medical examination and voluntarily arrive in this territory after travelling long distances without enough food or proper supervision, that any figures as to the death-rate among northern natives are rendered unreliable for the purpose of ascertaining the normal death-rate of natives recruited under proper supervision.

The position with regard to these voluntary natives is most difficult as, if the mines refuse to engage them, they have to wander elsewhere in search of work, and, if they were not eventually engaged, they would have no option but to work for the natives of the country or starve.

It is well known that the death-rate among natives such as these is abnormally high, especially during the first period of their engagement, and whilst suffering from the hardships they have undergone.

In conclusion I may assure His Honour that the Bureau are endeavouring, by every means in their power, to deliver natives on the mines in a physically fit condition, and the general welfare of the natives while under their control is in every case carefully studied, and that no trouble or cost is being spared to ensure this.

The Bureau have no figures to go on in support of the statement that the death-rate rules highest among natives recruited in the Northern Territories, but have no reason to suppose that it is so among natives recruited by the Bureau. The organization as at present constituted is now keeping careful records with regard to deaths among natives recruited by it.

The Bureau have fully considered the question of native labour from every point, and apart from the question of humanity, which they fully recognise, from the business point of view are fully cognizant of the necessity of taking every possible precaution to ensure the well-being of the native.

I have, &c.,
W. B. BUCKNALL.

The Chief Secretary,
Salisbury.

SIR, The Chamber of Mines, Salisbury, April 25, 1907.

I HAVE to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 12th instant, on the subject of the death-rate amongst natives employed on mines in Southern Rhodesia,

which has been strongly commented upon by His Excellency the High Commissioner. I am desired by my Chamber to thank you for the information contained in the extracts from His Excellency's despatches.

I am instructed to reply that this Chamber has given His Excellency's remarks the most careful attention.

The Chamber is fully alive to the necessity of improving the conditions under which natives work at the mines.

This matter has been the subject of investigation by the Chambers of Mines and the Native Labour Bureau for some time past.

The Chamber will press for definite conclusions to be arrived at, which will be communicated to you, with any further remarks which the Chamber may have to make.

I have, &c.,
EDW. COXWELL,
Secretary.

The Chief Secretary,
Salisbury.

(749/07.)

SIR, Rhodesia Chamber of Mines, Bulawayo, May 1, 1907.

I HAVE the honour to refer to your letters, Nos. G. 243/449, of 12th ultimo, and G. 263/476, of 24th ultimo.

(1) In dealing with the remarks made by His Excellency the High Commissioner on the health conditions and mortality of natives on the mines of Matabeleland and Mashonaland, my executive desire to draw attention to the fact that there is a regrettable lack of reliable statistics on the subject, especially in regard to Mashonaland, from which province my Executive has so far been unable to obtain any even approximate classification of natives employed on the mines. They also desire to record their opinion that the reports made by Inspectors of Native Compounds should be immediately communicated to the managers of the mines to which such reports apply.

(2) In a letter to the Chamber, dated 12th April, 1907, you subjoined, for the information of the Chamber, and for favour of remarks thereon, extracts from a despatch from His Excellency the High Commissioner, No. 65/3, of 30th March.

(3) The mortality of natives from pulmonary diseases during the winter months has always received the close attention of mine managers in Southern Rhodesia, and no effort has been spared to combat the epidemic stage which this disease reaches on large mines when once it has started. A close examination of the returns has been made, and it is found that these diseases are most prevalent in districts where the larger mines are chiefly situated, and that the death-rate therefrom in districts where the smaller mines are more common is considerably lower.

(4) The mortality from pulmonary diseases in Matabeleland has been as follows during the past three years during the winter quarters July to September:—

1904-5	...	...	...	19·19
1905-6	...	...	...	32·39
1906-7	...	...	...	45·22

The increased rate in 1906-7 has, in the main, been due to an outbreak in the Gwanda District, in which district alone 66 deaths, or 49·2 per cent. of the total, occurred. Exclusive of the Gwanda District, 68 deaths from pulmonary diseases occurred during the quarter, being at the rate of 22·3 per thousand per annum, or 10·3 per thousand per annum less than the mortality from this cause during the winter quarter ended 30th September, 1905.

(5) The weak and emaciated state in which natives from the north of the Zambesi arrive on the mines, having travelled without supervision on foot, and for the most part lacking in food and clothing, has already been the subject of strong representation to the Administrations of North-Eastern and North-Western Rhodesia, through the Rhodesian Native Labour Bureau, who, the Chamber submits,

are able to prove that numbers of the men coming down of their own accord to work in the Southern Rhodesia mines are seldom in a fit condition either to travel or to work on arrival. Every endeavour is being made to encourage these natives to come through the Bureau, who have arranged rest houses, food, and clothing on the north-eastern route.

(6) The remarks of His Excellency do not, under existing circumstances, apply to North-Western Rhodesia natives recruited by the Bureau, the arrangements for whose transport by rail to the mines of Southern Rhodesia, after a rigid medical inspection, are under the direct control of the Secretary for Native Affairs of North-West Rhodesia.

(7) The inadequacy of the medical attendance and of hospital accommodation on some of the mines is referred to. Careful enquiry shows that this appears to direct attention more especially to the Gwanda District, where the necessity for further medical assistance is commented on in the report made by the Inspector of Native Compounds, on the Sabiwa Mine. At present my Executive understand that the District Surgeon has medical charge of Europeans and natives, approximately 4,000, and that his patients are scattered over a route abounding in large mines, 33 to 38 miles in length.

The Executive Committee think that the Inspectors of Native Compounds will bear them out in saying that as a rule the suggestions made by those officials for the betterment of the native labourer, whether in regard to medical attention, hospital, or compound accommodation, are adopted by the managers of mines with the utmost willingness.

(8) The remarks of His Excellency on the unsatisfactory nature of the diet at the Globe and Phœnix Mine, were brought to the notice of the mine authorities. The reply of the Company states that the following diet is issued to boys employed by them:—

Mealie meal, nyout meal, Kaffir corn meal, rapoka meal.
Meat bi-weekly; monkey nuts and salt daily.
Potatoes, pumpkins, beans, and other vegetables when obtainable and recommended by the Medical Officer.

At this mine there is a Resident Medical Officer, who reports that patients in the native hospital get the following diet:—

Liquid: Milk two pints, beef-tea one pint when necessary, eggs and coffee, French brandy, and dop.
Low: Mealie meal porridge, potatoes or pumpkins, beans, soup, and baker's bread.
Full: The same as low, with the addition of half a pound of meat daily.

The mortality on this mine is 24·76 per thousand per annum.

(9) His Excellency notes that the death-rate rules highest among the natives recruited in the Northern Territories, and that these natives supply by far the greater portion of the labour employed on the mines of both provinces. My Executive regret that they have not the figures which His Excellency appears to have been in possession of, giving a territorial analysis of the deaths recorded. They have, however, prepared a territorial analysis of natives employed on the mines of Matabeleland for the three quarters ended respectively 30th September, 1906, 31st December, 1906, and 30th March, 1907, and find that His Excellency's statement that the northern districts supply by far the larger proportion of natives employed on the mines of this territory, at any rate, is not borne out by facts. The actual proportions shown in the territorial analysis (Schedule C) are as follows:—

Quarter ended.	Local.	Portuguese Territory.	North of Zambesi.	Other Sources.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
30th September, 1906	39·44	25·44	26·97	8·15
31st December, 1906	34·78	27·13	30·61	7·48
31st March, 1907	30·93	25·33	37·92	5·82

The death-rates during the same quarters were as follows:—

Quarter ended.	Total.	Per thousand per annum.	
		From Disease.	From Accident.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
30th September, 1906	75·25	70·23	5·02
31st December, 1906	112·52	79·43	33·09
30th March, 1907 ...	57·93	47·99	9·94

It may readily be seen from the above that when the proportion of Northern Zambesi boys to the total employed was highest (37·92 per cent. in quarter ended March 31st, 1907), the death-rate from disease was lowest (47·99 per 1,000 per annum).

(11) With regard to scurvy, my Executive have to point out the large proportion of the total deaths from this disease which occurred in the Gwanda District. The following are the figures for the periods:—

Quarter ended.	Deaths from Scurvy per 1,000 per annum.	
	Whole Matabeleland.	Gwanda.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
30th September, 1906 ...	3·37	8·41
31st December, 1906 ...	19·10	48·23
31st, March, 1907	9·9	34·52

Exclusive of the Gwanda District the mortality per 1,000 per annum from scurvy has not been abnormal during the nine months ended 31st March last. Twenty-nine, or 31·86 per cent. of the total deaths from scurvy, occurred in the districts of Bulawayo, Selukwe, Belingwe, Gwelo, and Wankie, giving a death-rate from this cause for the nine months of 4·35 per 1,000 per annum as compared with 3·49 per 1,000 in 1904-5, and 8·60 per 1,000 in 1905-6 for the whole country (*vide* Chief Native Commissioner's Report, Matabeleland, 1905-6, page 15).

My Executive desire to assure the Administration that they have always been alive to the danger of scurvy, which Doctor Loir, an eminent bacteriologist from the Pasteur Institute, found was particularly prevalent in the District of Gwanda. They feel convinced, however, that the disease is, in the main, due to uncleanly feeding on the part of natives, who, arriving at a mine fresh from a kraal, spend the major portion of their earnings on tinned foods, which Doctor Loir points out, they often do not consume immediately the tins are opened. They are further convinced that only time and experience can thoroughly eradicate the disease. Doctor Loir estimated that on most mines at the time of his report (1902) probably not less than 35 per cent. of the labourers were infected with it, and it goes without saying that the mortality would be very much greater than it is at the present day had not measures been taken to combat with the disease in the past few years.

That those in control of the mining industry are alive to the necessity for careful supervision of the diet of mine labourers is evidenced by the fact that a commission, appointed at the instance of the Administration, recently went fully into the question, and the report is now receiving the close attention of the Chamber of Mines.

(13) His Excellency states that he does not know if effect was given to the recommendations made by the Inspector of Native Compounds when visiting the Globe and Phœnix Compound in September, 1906. The Executive would point out that no recommendation was made by the Inspector of Native Compounds so far as they can trace. He merely stated that "efforts were being made to reduce this death-rate by giving change of diet, isolating scurvy patients, of whom there

is a large number, and by destruction of infected huts." This immediately follows a report that most of the deaths occurred amongst newly-arrived natives from the north of the Zambesi, "some of whom reached the mine in a weak and emaciated condition," and points to the fact that the latter, having come down without medical examination, arrived on the mine with the seeds of the disease already sown.

(14) Application to the Native Department has failed to elicit any specified complaints with regard to the treatment of sick natives. On the contrary, my Executive is assured that the recommendations of the Inspectors have, in the majority of cases, been readily met by the erection of special hospital huts and the appointment of orderlies whose sole duty it is to look after sick natives under the direction of the District Surgeon, while all small mines keep a stock of drugs and first-aid materials, which are periodically inspected by the Inspectors of Native Compounds.

(15) All authorities agree that the abhorrence of natives to entering hospital, and to be treated for their ailments by white man's medicine, is a superstitious trait in their characters which is gradually being eradicated, and special efforts are made to enforce boys to remain there. My Executive feel sure that every humane effort is made by the mine authorities to induce natives to enter the hospitals provided for them, and the special report of the Native Commissioner of Gwanda on the health conditions at the Sabiwa Mine evidences the fact that a native will run any foolish risk in his ignorance of the benefits of being skillfully attended medically, in order to escape the imaginary ordeal of going into hospital.

(16) It only remains for my Executive to point out that, exclusive of the Gwanda District (which, during the nine months ended 31st March, 1907, accounted for 391 out of 698 deaths from all causes), the mortality for the whole of Matabeleland amounted to only 46·84 per 1,000 per annum, which shows only a small increase of 1·13 per thousand per annum as compared with the mortality for the whole country for the year ended 31st March, 1906.

(17) In view of the special report of the Inspector of Native Compounds on the Sabiwa Mine, and the remarks made therein as to the inadequacy of the medical staff in the Gwanda District, my Executive, while willing to do all in their power to bring about a decrease in the death-rate noted above, is not prepared, on the facts before them, to admit that any abnormity would have been apparent, had it not been for the Gwanda District. They submit that, on the whole, conditions of mine labour in Southern Rhodesia have in every direction improved vastly during the past few years, and that only close attention to local conditions can effect any appreciable reduction in certain localities where the mortality is admittedly abnormal. As has already been pointed out the death-rate in the Gwanda District was excessive on account of a peculiarly unfortunate series of circumstances combined with accidents. These are, my Executive feel certain, unlikely to recur.

(18) In conclusion, my Committee desire to express their regret that the figures furnished to His Excellency by the Resident Commissioner in regard to the estimated mortality in Mashonaland were incorrect. The mortality return attached to His Honour's letter, dated 14th February last, gives as the average number of boys on the mines during the quarter ended 31st December, 1906 8,103

The return of labour fees paid shows a daily average actually working per month during the same three months of 7,426

Add 25 per cent., a low but reasonable estimate, for boys on the mines not working, and for the large number of small mines not paying labour fees 1,856

9,282

The total number of deaths in the quarter was 155, which, on the basis of 9,282 boys employed, gives a mortality of 66·7 per thousand per annum as against 77·49 per thousand per annum shown in the return referred to.

(19) My Committee desire further to record their opinion that the present method of calculating the death-rate is liable to lead to erroneous conclusions as to what the mortality really amounts to, as it is well known that the average period of services of boys on the mines of Southern Rhodesia is from two to three months per annum; and also that the majority of natives, as already stated, die during the first few months' service.

These facts, in view of most of the mine labourers on the Witwatersrand Mines being contracted for 12 months' service, prohibit any comparison being made between the mortality on mines in that District, and that in Southern Rhodesia.

(20) This leads them to the further point, which is deserving of the most careful attention, viz., that while by far the greater proportion of the labour in Southern Rhodesia finds its own way down to the mines, the supply of practically the whole of the Witwatersrand is derived from the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, and undergoes a medical examination and detention in hospital pending fitness to proceed to work.

In Southern Rhodesia it is quite a common occurrence for a gang of boys to arrive at a mine, a large percentage of whom are compelled to undergo a course of medical treatment at once.

Some of them die, and their deaths are improperly attributed to insanitary and imperfect conditions at that mine. It is hoped that in time the possibility of such occurrences will be minimised by the wider control over mine recruits which will be exercised by the Rhodesian Native Labour Bureau.

(21) Generally, my Executive desire to lay stress on the facts that the report on diet above referred to, the importance of which is fully realised, is being widely circulated amongst mine owners, and that there is already evident a satisfactory decrease in the mortality of the Gwanda District, to which reference is continually made above. They further emphasize the fact that they do not consider the mortality returns at the present day can fairly be compared with those of 1904-5, as at that time there was no efficient system of death registration in force. So far as my Committee is aware, such registration has only been lately introduced.

W. W. JENKINS,
Secretary.

The Chief Secretary,
Salisbury.

"A."—MORTALITY OF NATIVES ON THE MINES OF MATABELELAND for the Nine Months ended 31st March, 1907.

	Selukwe District.			Bulawayo District, including Bembesi, Belingwe and Filabusi.			Gwanda District.			Gwelo District.			Wankie District.			Total.		
	Total Natives Employed.	Total Deaths.	Mortality per 1,000 per annum.	Total Natives Employed.	Total Deaths.	Mortality per 1,000 per annum.	Total Natives Employed.	Total Deaths.	Mortality per 1,000 per annum.	Total Natives Employed.	Total Deaths.	Mortality per 1,000 per annum.	Total Natives Employed.	Total Deaths.	Mortality per 1,000 per annum.	Total Natives Employed.	Total Deaths.	Mortality per 1,000 per annum.
1906.																		
July	2,065	5	28·9	4,034	7	20·8	3,257	39	143·7	2,778	9	35·2	335	2	71·6	12,469	62	59·6
August	1,924	6	37·3	3,799	5	15·8	2,829	46	195·1	2,912	17	70·0	329	5	185·4	11,793	79	80·4
September	1,873	5	32·0	3,653	13	42·7	2,467	31	150·8	2,946	31	125·5	339	2	70·8	11,296	82	87·1
October	2,016	9	53·5	3,435	10	34·9	2,384	38	191·2	2,580	19	88·3	356	1	33·7	10,771	77	85·7
November	1,925	13	81·0	3,342	9	32·3	2,954	35	142·1	2,440	19	93·4	365	—	—	11,026	76	82·7
December	2,048	11	64·4	3,146	12	45·7	2,873	112	467·8	2,40[illegible]	17	84·7	370	1	32·4	10,845	153	169·2
1907.																		
January	2,104	9	51·3	3,559	7	23·6	2,654	60	271·2	2,593	8	33·1	370	4	129·7	11,280	88	92·7
February	2,012	11	64·6	3·749	8	25·6	2,589	18	83·4	2,711	8	35·4	395	1	30·3	11,486	46	48·0
March	2,282	4	21·0	3,875	10	30·9	2,745	12	52·1	3,057	7	27·4	395	2	60·7	12,354	35	34·0
Totals and averages, nine months.	2,031	73	47·76	3,621	81	29·82	2,751	391	194·51	25,715	135	66·29	361	18	66·48	11,480	698	81·01

Analysis of Returns of Inspectors of Native Compounds.

For Rhodesia Chamber of Mines (Incorporated),
W. W. JENKINS,
Secretary.

Bulawayo,
23rd April, 1907.

"B."—Mortality of Natives on the Mines of Matabeleland.

Analysis of causes of deaths—classified in districts—during quarters ended 30th September and 31st December, 1906, and 31st March, 1907.

District and Period.	Total.			Pulmonary.		Scurvy.		Malaria.		Dysentery.		Other Diseases.		Accidents.		
	No. of Deaths.	Percentage of Total Deaths.	Mortality per 1,000 per annum.	No. of Deaths.	Mortality per per 1,000 annum.	No. of Deaths.	Mortality per 1,000 per annum.	No. of Deaths.	Mortality per 1,000 per annum.	No. of Deaths.	Mortality per 1,000 per annum.	No. of Deaths.	Mortality per 1,000 per annum.	No. of Deaths.	Mortality per 1,000 per annum.	
Quarter ended 30th September, 1906—																
Selukwe	16	7·18	32·75	12	24·56	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	6·14	1	2·05	
Bulawayo	20	8·96	23·63	8	9·45	1	1·18	1	1·18	2	2·36	3	3·54	5	5·92	These two divisions are included in Return A under the head of Bulawayo, and comprise Bulawayo, Bembesi, Filabusi, Bubi, and Belingwe.
Belingwe	5	2·25	45·06	5	45·06	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Gwanda	116	52·01	162·75	66	92·59	6	8·41	8	11·22	27	37·92	6	8·41	3	4·20	
Gwelo	57	25·56	79·22	38	52·81	3	4·17	—	—	3	4·17	7	9·73	6	8·34	
Wankie	9	4·04	107·78	5	59·88	—	—	—	—	4	47·90	—	—	—	—	
Quarter ended 31st December, 1906—																
Selukwe	33	10·90	79·25	21	50·51	2	4·81	—	—	2	4·81	4	9·61	4	9·61	
Bulawayo	22	7·20	30·95	8	11·25	3	4·23	1	1·42	2	2·81	6	8·43	2	2·81	
Belingwe	9	2·90	77·58	4	34·48	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	17·24	3	25·86	
Gwanda	185*	60·4	270·36	37	54·07	33	48·23	13	18·99	17	24·85	8	11·68	77*	112·54	*Valley accident.
Gwelo	55	18·00	88·89	25	40·38	14	22·61	—	—	—	—	12	19·38	4	6·46	
Wankie	2	·60	22·03	2	22·03	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Quarter ended 31st March, 1907—																
Selukwe	24	14·20	44·81	16	29·88	—	—	—	—	1	1·88	6	11·17	1	1·88	
Bulawayo	21	12·42	26·28	5	6·69	—	—	—	—	3	3·81	7	8·76	6	7·22	
Belingwe	4	2·37	30·12	1	7·53	1	7·53	2	15·06	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Gwanda	90†	53·25	135·03	16	24·01	23	34·52	10	15·06	17	25·5	6	9·00	18*	27·00	†Sabiwa accident.
Gwelo	23	13·62	33·01	10	14·35	5	7·18	—	—	—	—	4	5·74	4	5·74	
Wankie	7	4·14	72·53	4	41·44	—	—	—	—	1	10·36	2	20·73	—	—	

For Rhodesia Chamber of Mines (Incorporated),
W. W. Jenkins, Secretary.

"C."—TERRITORIAL ANALYSIS OF NATIVES EMPLOYED ON THE MINES OF MATABELELAND, showing proportion per cent. of Boys from each Territory and Nett Mortality per 1,000 per annum.

District.	Total.		Local.		Portuguese Territory.		North of Zambesi.		Other Sources.		Nett Mortality per 1,000 per annum.
	Average No. Employed per Month.	Per cent. of Total.	Average No. Employed per Month.	Per cent. of Total.	Average No. Employed per Month.	Per cent. of Total.	Average No. Employed per Month.	Per cent. of Total.	Average No. Employed per Month.	Per cent. of Total.	
Quarter ended 30th September, 1906—											
Selukwe	1,954	16·48	574	29·37	889	45·49	371	18·98	120	6·16	32·75
Bulawayo	3,386	28·56	1,670	49·33	792	23·39	739	21·82	185	5·46	23·63
Belingwe	445	3·76	191	42·92	53	11·92	24	5·39	177	39·77	45·06
Gwanda	2,849	24·03	1,135	39·84	439	15·41	892	31·31	383	13·44	162·75
Gwelo	2,888	24·37	1,088	37·67	741	25·66	996	34·49	63	2·18	79·22
Wankie	331	2·80	17	5.14	101	30·51	175	52·87	38	11·48	107·78
	11,853	100·00	4,675	39·44	3,015	25·44	3,197	26·97	966	8·15	75·25
Quarter ended 31st December, 1906—											
Selukwe	1,996	18·35	453	22·70	968	48·50	459	22·99	116	5·81	79·25
Bulawayo	2,844	26·15	1,156	40·64	720	25·31	805	28·31	163	5·74	30·95
Belingwe	464	4·25	210	45·23	95	20·47	37	8·00	122	26·30	77·58
Gwanda	2,736	25·15	1,177	43·02	335	12·24	904	33·04	320	11·70	270·36
Gwelo	2,475	22·75	755	30·50	762	30·78	874	35·33	84	3·39	88·89
Wankie	363	3·35	32	8·82	71	19·56	251	69·14	9	2·48	22·03
	10,878	100·00	3,783	34·78	2,951	27·13	3,330	30·61	814	7·48	112·52
Quarter ended 31st March, 1907—											
Selukwe	2,142	18·30	580	27·08	905	42·25	532	24·83	125	5·84	44·81
Bulawayo	3,196	27·32	1,247	39·00	778	24·34	1,079	33·76	92	2·90	26·28
Belingwe	531	4·53	176	33·14	144	27·12	93	17·52	118	22·22	30·12
Gwanda	2,662	22·75	815	30·62	350	13·15	1,251	47·00	246	9·23	135·03
Gwelo	2,786	23·81	777	27·88	723	25·95	1,204	43·22	82	2·95	33·01
Wankie	385	3·29	25	6·50	65	16·87	279	72·47	16	4·16	72·53
	11,702	100·00	3,620	30·93	2,965	25 33	4,438	37·92	679	5·82	57·93

For Rhodesia Chamber of Mines (Incorporated),
W. W. JENKINS, Secretary.

ANALYSIS OF QUARTERLY MORTALITY RETURNS FOR THE QUARTER ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1906.

Disease.	Mazoe.			Lomagundi.			Hartley.			Umtali.		
Pneumonia	2	—	2	12	4	8	14	10	5	2	2	2
Dysentery	1	1	1	1	—	—	6	2	—	—	—	1
Consumption	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Accidents	—	—	—	1	5	3	—	2	2	4	2	—
Scurvy	—	—	—	1	1	—	6	3	5	—	—	—
Leprosy	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cardiac failure	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
Inanition	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Natural causes...	—	—	—	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Exposure	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Consumption	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Debility	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhœa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Chest complaints	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Hæmorrhage	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Acute rheumatism	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Pulmonary tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Unknown	—	—	—	2*	2*	—	—	4	—	—	—	—
Murder...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Malaria...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—
Phthisis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1
Total	4	1	3	23	15	16	29	25	15	10	11	6
	8			54			69			27		

* NOTE.—These do not belong to the Mines.

Disease causing Death.	Division I. (Selukwe.)			Division II. (Gwanda.)			Division III. (Bulawayo.)			Division IV. (Gwelo.)			Division V. (Belingwe.)			Wankies.			—
	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	
Accident	—	—	4	—	1	75	1	1	—	1	3	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	88
Dislocation	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Fractured skull	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Internal obstruction	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Poisoning	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Syphilis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Abscess	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Malignant Ulcers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Inflammation	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Brain disease	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Epilepsy	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Paralysis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Convulsions	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Fit	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Heart disease	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Dysentery	—	1	1	8	3	6	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	22
Diarrhœa	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Gastritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Hemmorhage	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Colic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Congestion	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Scurvy	—	2	—	9	18	6	2	1	—	3	7	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	52
Debility	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

Consumption	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Phthisis	2	2	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Pneumonia	4	8	1	16	10	9	2	2	3	9	2	9	—	—	4	1	—	1	81
Chest complaint	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Inflammation of lungs	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pleurisy	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Unknown	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Malaria	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Fever	—	—	—	—	1	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	13
Natural causes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
Naturalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Total	9	13	11	38	35	112	8	7	7	19	19	17	2	2	5	1	—	1	306
		33			185			22			55			9			2		

Rhodesia Chamber of Mines (Incorporated), Bulawayo,
May 3, 1907.

To the Manager

. . . . . Mine.

DEAR SIR,

Diet of Mine Labourers.

I AM directed to request your consideration of the important question of diet of mine labourers which has been engaging the close attention of this Chamber for some time past.

The importance of realising the fact that natives, when occupied in mine work, are unable to maintain their health and strength on the same diet as that to which they are accustomed at their own kraals, cannot be too strongly impressed upon mine managers, and it is believed that by issuing a more varied scale of diet not only will the mines become more attractive to natives, but an inducement will be offered them to accustom themselves to longer periods of service.

After careful consultation with medical and other experts, the Chamber desires to ask you to consider the feasibility of issuing a diet on the following lines:—

(1) Meal.—(Rapoko, mealie, inyout, or mabele), 2½ lbs. per diem.
Rice, 1½ lbs. per diem.

(2) Meat.—For underground boys only 1 lb. per week.

(3) Vegetables.—Issue of monkey nuts once a week, varied with beans or potatoes, or such other vegetables as may be available.

(4) Lard.—When monkey nuts are not available, lard to be issued in lieu thereof.

(5) Salt.—Three ounces per week.

The estimated cost, which would, of course, vary in different districts, would be as follows:—

	Cost per diem. d.
Meal (2½ lbs. per diem)	3·332
Meat (1 lb. per week)	·642
Monkey nuts or potatoes (2 lbs.)	·343
Salt	·257
	4·574

The Chamber does not think the above scale of cost of such a varied diet as they suggest would be greatly in excess of the existing cost of feeding natives, but would be glad to hear your views on the subject generally.

I am, &c.,
W. W. JENKINS,
Secretary.

LABOUR RETURN.

For the Month of.....19.....

.....Mine. Reg. No..... .....District.

Number.

Europeans employed ... ...

Natives employed.	Actual Number on Mine.	Average Number daily employed.	Average Pay.
(1) Surface			
(2) Underground			
(3) Special			
Totals			

ANALYSIS OF SOURCES OF SUPPLY OF ACTUAL NUMBER ON MINE.

(1) Local ... ...
(2) Portuguese Territory ... ...
(3) North-Western Rhodesia ... ...
(4) North-Eastern Rhodesia ... ...
(5) British Central Africa ... ...
(6) Other Sources ... ...

Total ... ...

Length of Shifts (in hours) ... ...
Average period natives remain at Mine (in months) ... ...
Desertions during month ... ...

I,..... .....do hereby certify that the information shown above is true and correct.

Signature.....

In what capacity signing.....

Dated at.....this.....day of..... .....19.....

NOTE.—This Return is called for in terms of Government Notice No. 95 of 1907, issued under the provisions of the "Mines and Minerals Ordinance, 1903," and must be received by the Mining Commissioner or such other Official authorised thereto not later than seven days after the termination of the month to which it relates. Failure to furnish such Return renders the responsible person liable to the penalties as prescribed in the said Notice.

HEALTH AND MORTALITY RETURN.

For the Month of .....19.....

.....Mine. Reg. No..... .....District.

LIST OF DISEASES.

—	Sick at 1st of Month.	New Cases.	Recovered.	Died.	Sick at end of Month.
Europeans—					
Malaria					
Dysentery					
Intestinal diseases					
Pulmonary diseases					
*Other diseases					
Accidents and injuries { Major					
Accidents and injuries { Minor					
Totals					

* In case of death give cause as far as ascertainable.

—	Sick at 1st of Month.	New Cases.	Recovered.	Died.	Sick at end of Month.
Natives—					
Malaria					
Scurvy					
Dysentery					
Syphilis					
Pulmonary diseases — Pneumonia					
Pulmonary diseases — Phthisis (consumption)					
Pulmonary diseases — Other diseases of chest ...					
Intestinal diseases — Diarrhœa					
Intestinal diseases — Other intestinal diseases					
Diseases of heart					
Debility and inanition					
*Other diseases					
Accidents and injuries — Major					
Accidents and injuries — Minor					
Totals					

* In case of death give cause as far as ascertainable.

I,.....do hereby certify that the information shown above is true and correct.

Signature.....

In what capacity signing.....

Dated at.....this..... day of.....19.....

NOTE.—This Return is called for in terms of Government Notice No. 95 of 1907, issued under the provisions of the "Mines and Minerals Ordinance, 1903," and must be received by the Mining Commissioner or such other Official authorised thereto not later than seven days after the termination of the month to which it relates. Failure to furnish such Return renders the responsible person liable to the penalties as prescribed in the said Notice.

Enclosure 4 in No. 32.

HIGH COMMISSIONER, Johannesburg, to RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, Salisbury.

TELEGRAM.

July 10. No. 31. Your despatch, 107, June 20th, mortality Southern Rhodesia mines, I am forwarding Administrator's despatch of June 17th to Secretary of State, but before dealing with it in detail I shall await full report from you on the subject. This is a matter on which Secretary of State will, no doubt, desire an expression of your views. Your report should deal seriatim with points raised in my despatch to Administrator of March 30th, and should state your opinion as to whether each point has been satisfactorily met by Sir T. Scanlen's reply. You may have opportunities of making inquiries during your forthcoming tour.

No. 33.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE to THE GOVERNOR OF THE TRANSVAAL.

MY LORD, Downing Street, August 15, 1907.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 15 ultimo,* and to refer to my telegram, No. 1, of the 24th of July,† in which I informed you of the terms on which I was prepared to agree to the continuance of recruiting for the Transvaal mines from the British Central Africa Protectorate and North-Eastern Rhodesia.

2. Though more than two-thirds of the natives from the British Central Africa Protectorate were employed on the Premier Diamond Mine during the months under review in your telegram A, of the 15th of July,‡ the death-rate amongst these natives was not materially less than that amongst the natives from tropical areas as a whole, the majority of whom were presumably employed underground; and I request that you will inform your Ministers that it was largely in view of this fact that I did not feel justified in permitting the renewal of recruiting of natives from the Protectorate for underground work.

I have, &c.,
ELGIN.

No. 34.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE to. THE COMMISSIONER OF THE BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

[*Answered by Nos.* 55 *and* 56.]

SIR, Downing Street, August 16, 1907.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have recently received from the High Commissioner for South Africa a copy of a correspondence* dealing with the high rate of mortality among native labourers on the mines in Southern Rhodesia.

2. It appears from reports received by Lord Selborne that the high death-rate is largely due to the excessive number of deaths which occur among labourers coming from the territories lying north of Southern Rhodesia, and more particularly among those who have found their own way to the mines instead of being recruited through the agency of the Rhodesian Native Labour Bureau. Natives engaged at the mines in such circumstances, it is said, are peculiarly susceptible to disease, owing to the hardships which they suffer on the journey, and the weak and emaciated condition in which they arrive at their destination.

3. I cannot but view the present state of affairs with grave concern, and I trust that the efforts which are now being made in Southern Rhodesia may result in such an improvement in the death-rate as will obviate any restriction on the present supply of labour to the mines. It appears from a letter from the Rhodesia Chamber of Mines, extracts† from which are enclosed, that representations have already been made to the Administrations of North-Eastern and North-Western Rhodesia, and I have no doubt the question is being earnestly considered by the authorities of those territories. I am in communication with the Administrator of North-Western Rhodesia in regard to the supply of labour from that territory, and I also wish to obtain through you from the Acting Administrator of North-Eastern Rhodesia a full report on the present conditions under which labourers proceed from the territory under his control to the Southern Rhodesia mines.

4. I should wish Mr. Wallace to deal both with the question of recruiting through the recognised agency and with the problem of the independent emigrant in search of work, and I should be glad to learn whether he has any suggestions to make as to possible measures to secure more effectual supervision of the latter class. It might, for instance, be possible to establish some precautions which would tend to ensure that the native would report himself at some definite place where the medically unfit could be turned back before leaving the territory.

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* No. 31. † No. 30. ‡ No. 28. § See No 32. ‖ Paragraphs 5, 6, 9 and 20 on pages 41, 42 and 45.

5. I should also be glad to receive any observations which you may be able to add in regard to the problems under discussion, the difficulty of which I do not fail to recognise.

I have, &c.,
ELGIN.

No. 35.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE to THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR SOUTH AFRICA.

MY LORD, Downing Street, August 16, 1907.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 15th of July,* transmitting a copy of further correspondence with the Resident Commissioner relative to the mortality among native labourers on the Southern Rhodesia mines.

2. I cannot but view the present high death rate, which appears to be due principally to labourers from the northern territories, with grave concern. I am glad to observe that you have gone very thoroughly into the matter, and I trust that the efforts now being made will result in such an improvement as will render any action tending to restrict the sources of supply of labour unnecessary. I could not allow such a mortality as occurred in the Gwanda district in December, 1906, and January, 1907, to pass unnoticed.

3. From the correspondence it would appear that the excessive mortality among labourers from the northern territories may be traced to a large extent to the weak state of health in which labourers not recruited through the bureau arrive at the mines owing to the hardships of the journey. No doubt something should be done to mitigate this by allowing a longer period for rest and recuperation on arrival, but it would appear that the remedy for the evil, if there is one, must be sought in the northern territories from which the labourers come. I do not know how far it would be possible to direct the stream of labour through definite ports of egress where some supervision could be maintained and medical inspection established. In any case I should be glad if you would communicate with the Administrator of North-Western Rhodesia informing him that my attention has been directed to the high death rate among natives of the territory under his charge when at work on the mines in Southern Rhodesia, and asking him to report fully both on the measures now taken to supervise the recruits obtained by the bureau, and on any suggestions which he may be able to make for dealing with emigration of natives who seek work independently of any organised agency.

4. I should add that I am writing in the same sense to the Administrator of North-Eastern Rhodesia through the Commissioner of the British Central Africa Protectorate.

I have, &c.,
ELGIN.

No. 36.

THE GOVERNOR OF THE TRANSVAAL to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

(Received 3.5 p.m., 22nd August, 1907.)

TELEGRAM.

[*Answered by No.* 37.]

22nd August, A. Your telegram, 24th July, No. 1.† Following is summary of further minute received from Ministers:—

> They regret His Majesty's Government's decision not to sanction employment of natives from tropical territories under conditions proposed in Ministers' minute of 10th July. Your decision as given does not help matters, because there is no difficulty in procuring as many labourers as required for surface work and consequently no further demand for such labourers. Premier Diamond Mine does not desire to avail itself of your decision. Ministers again call attention to probability of natives in British

* No. 32. † No. 30.

Central Africa finding their way down to gold mines independently without supervision and resultant increased danger to health. They refer to telegram from Administrator, British Central Africa, to yourself, 10th July, copy of which received by me from Colonial Office I showed privately to Minister of Native Affairs.

Despatch follows by mail.—SELBORNE.

No. 37.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE to THE GOVERNOR OF THE TRANSVAAL.

(Sent 4.5 p.m., 29th August, 1907.)

TELEGRAM.

29th August. No, 1. Referring to your telegram, 22nd August, A.* In view of the high mortality amongst the British Central Africa Protectorate natives I feel it difficult to alter my opinion of what is necessary. I must give the whole matter the fullest consideration, and cannot decide until I have received your despatch.—ELGIN.'

No. 38.

THE GOVERNOR OF THE TRANSVAAL to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

(Received September 14, 1907.)

[*Answered by No.* 41.]

MY LORD, Government House, Pretoria, August 26, 1907.

WITH reference to my telegram "A" of the 22nd August,* I have the honour to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a Minute which I have received from my Ministers on the subject of the recruiting of native labour for underground work on the Witwatersrand gold mines from the British Central Africa Protectorate and North-Eastern Rhodesia.

2. You will observe that Ministers refer to the telegram from the Administrator of the British Central Africa Protectorate to Your Lordship of the 10th July.† A copy of this telegram was among the printed papers sent to me each week from the Colonial Office, and as it appeared to me to have an important bearing upon the question of the recruiting of tropical labour, I showed it privately to the Minister of Native Affairs.

I have, &c.,
SELBORNE,
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 38.

MINISTERS to GOVERNOR.

(Minute, 408.)

Prime Minister's Office, Pretoria, August 19, 1907.

Ministers have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of His Excellency's Minute, No. 50/5/07, of the 25th July, enclosing a copy of the Secretary of State's telegram, No. 1, dated the 24th July, regarding the recruitment of native labour in the British Central Africa Protectorate and North-Eastern Rhodesia.

Ministers express their regret that His Majesty's Government have not been able to sanction the employment of natives from those territories under the conditions specified in their Minute of the 10th July, 1907.

As the Secretary of State may not be aware that the effect of the decision conveyed by his telegram is such as to preclude the mining industry from taking any advantage of it, Ministers hope that the question may be submitted for his reconsideration.

In view of the fact that the mines experience no difficulty in procuring as

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* No. 36. † No. 26.

many labourers as they require for surface work, there is practically no demand for such labour at the present time nor is there any likelihood of its arising in the near future.

For that reason the recommendations contained in Ministers' Minute of the 10th July contemplated the recruitment of labour mainly for underground work, and unless it can be obtained for such work the companies do not require it.

It has been ascertained, moreover, that the Premier Diamond Mine does not desire to avail itself of the suggestion for the employment of natives from British Central Africa, as its demands are fully met by the local supply.

Ministers desire the Secretary of State's attention to be invited to the probability of natives from British Central Africa finding their way down to the gold mines independently, if recruiting operations there be entirely prohibited, and in this view they are supported by the Administrator of the Protectorate in his telegram to the Secretary of State, dated the 10th July.

In the interest of the natives themselves no less than in that of the mines, it is infinitely preferable that the labourers should be engaged locally under careful Government supervision and regulation than that they should come down to the Transvaal on their own account—a movement which this Administration cannot control.

Having regard to the distance between British Central Africa and North-Eastern Rhodesia and the gold mines of this Colony, any natives travelling independently must inevitably be exposed to considerable hardships on a foot journey of two or three months' duration without any arrangements for their shelter and food. Under such conditions many of them would in all probability arrive in such a weakened condition as to render them peculiarly susceptible to the change of climate of the Witwatersrand, whereas under regulated recruitment they would be properly cared for, and therefore not subject to such hardship and susceptibility.

LOUIS BOTHA.

No. 39.

THE DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF THE TRANSVAAL to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

(Received September 28, 1907.)

MY LORD; Governor's Office, Johannesburg, September 9, 1907.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 3rd July,* I have the honour to enclose, for your information, a copy of a Minute from Ministers on the subject of the recruitment of natives from the British Central Africa Protectorate for work on the Premier Diamond Mine.

I have, &c.,
H. HILDYARD,
Deputy-Governor.

Enclosure in No. 39.

MINISTERS to DEPUTY GOVERNOR.

(Minute, No. 458.)

Prime Minister's Office, Pretoria, September 7, 1907.

With reference to His Excellency the Deputy Governor's Minute, No. 50/5/07, of the 26th July last, relative to the recruitment of natives from British Central Africa for work on the Premier Diamond Mine, Ministers regret that they have not been able to obtain any definite information as regards the high rate of mortality amongst these natives *en route*.

The natives were medically examined at every convenient point, and, as a result of these examinations, fourteen were rejected as unfit for work. One was considered to be too young; one was found to be suffering from a large venereal sore; one was a victim to enteritis; and one suffered from anæmia; the remaining ten, though no reason was recorded by the medical officer, were probably rejected on account of debility.

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* No. 25.

As regards the number who did not arrive at their destination, it would appear that these two natives deserted *en route*, and it has not been possible to obtain further information as to their whereabouts.

LOUIS BOTHA.

No. 40.

THE DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF THE TRANSVAAL to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

(Received September 28, 1907.)

MY LORD, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, September 9, 1907.

WITH reference to Lord Selborne's despatch of the 26th August,* I have the honour to enclose, for your information, copy of a minute from Ministers on the subject of the recruitment of natives in the British Central Africa Protectorate for labour on the Premier Diamond Mine.

I have, &c.,
HY. HILDYARD,
Deputy-Governor.

Enclosure in No. 40.

MINISTERS to DEPUTY GOVERNOR.

(Minute 451.)

Prime Minister's Office, Pretoria, September 4, 1907.

In connection with their Minute, No. 408, of the 19th August, Ministers have the honour to transmit to the Governor the enclosed copy of a correspondence between the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association and the Premier Diamond Mining Company, from which it will be observed that the Company's Board does not desire to avail itself of the permission to employ a number not exceeding 2,000 native labourers from the British Central Africa Protectorate under the authority conveyed in the Secretary of State's telegram to His Excellency, No. 17, of the 10th July, 1907 [? No. 1 of the 24th July, 1907].

LOUIS BOTHA.

Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, Limited,

DEAR SIR, Chamber of Mines Buildings, Johannesburg, August 1, 1907.

OUR agent in British Central Africa wires me as follows:—

"Following from Commissioner, Zomba:—

"*Begins:* Permission granted to recruit up to 2,000 for surface work on the Premier Mine under the same conditions as before. Inform me if your Association wish to recruit under above conditions. *Ends.*"

In connection with the above, I beg to confirm the conversation which my General Manager had with you, and shall be glad to learn whether the Premier Diamond Company is prepared to accept these 2,000 Central African natives.

Yours, &c.,

Secretary.

The Secretary,
Premier (Transvaal) Diamond Mining Company, Limited,
Johannesburg.

Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, Limited,

DEAR SIR, Chamber of Mines Buildings, Johannesburg, August 3, 1907.

WITH reference to my letter of the 1st instant, relative to recruiting of natives in British Central Africa for your Company, I have to inform you that,

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* No. 38.

so far, we have been unable to obtain the sanction of the British Central Africa authorities to any arrangement by which the native should, themselves, pay the cost of their own repatriation, although we are still endeavouring to do so, but, on the assumption that this is impossible, we shall be glad to hear from you on the following points:—

(A) The number you are prepared to accept up to the 29th February next.

(B) Whether, in addition to the cost of importation, you are prepared to pay the cost of the repatriation of these natives, estimated approximately at 35s. per head, upon completion of their period of service, and, in this case, what minimum wage you would be prepared to offer the natives. In the event of your not being able to agree to "(B)," I shall be glad to know:—

(C) Whether you would take the natives if it is found possible to arrange that they shall themselves bear the cost of their own repatriation, and, in this case also, please state the minimum wage you would be prepared to offer.

Yours, &c.,

Secretary.

The Secretary,
Premier (Transvaal) Diamond Mining Company, Limited,
Cullinan Buildings, Johannesburg.

(Ref.: 5/58. 1. 447-8.)

Premier (Transvaal) Diamond Mining Company, Limited,

DEAR SIR, (Head Office), Cullinan Building, Johannesburg, August 9, 1907.

WITH reference to your letter of the 1st instant, concerning the permission granted to recruit up to 2,000 British Central Africa boys for surface work at the Premier Mine, I now beg to subjoin extract from our General Manager's letter of the 8th August, dealing with this matter:—

"I am in receipt of the enquiry contained in your letter of the 31st ultimo, in regard to the offer of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association to supply 2,000 British Central Africa boys to the Company, and in reply I am unable to recommend the acceptance of this offer. The boys arrive here untrained and they are of very little use until they have been at work for six months and gained experience; and even then, at their best, they are much inferior in efficiency to the average native received from other sources. As to cost I take it that the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association would impose their usual recruiting charge of £5 per head, whereas we have a plentiful supply of labour coming in voluntarily, and seeing that we are obtaining a steady supply even in excess of our immediate requirements, I think it would be unwise to commit ourselves to such a heavy expenditure except in the case of necessity."

In view of the foregoing, therefore, I beg to advise that my Board does not wish to avail itself of the offer made in your letter under reply.

Yours, &c.,
T. EDINGTON,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
Witwatersrand Native Labour Association,
Johannesburg.

No. 41.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE to THE GOVERNOR OF THE TRANSVAAL.

MY LORD, Downing Street, September 28, 1907.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the

26th of August,* forwarding a copy of a minute from your Ministers on the subject of the recruiting of native labour in the British Central Africa Protectorate and North-Eastern Rhodesia for underground work on the gold mines of the Witwatersrand.

2. I am anxious to do what I can to meet the wishes of your Ministers in this matter, but the position is one of considerable difficulty.

3. I understand that the mortality among natives from the British Central Africa Protectorate employed on the Transvaal mines was, during the latter half of 1906, at the rate of 66 per 1,000 per annum, and during the first four months of 1907 at the rate of 53 per 1,000 per annum; while the general mortality among natives from all tropical areas for the whole period from July 1st, 1906, to April 30th, 1907, was at the rate of 57 per 1,000 per annum. Though these figures show a distinct tendency in the right direction, it must be remembered that recently two-thirds of the British Central Africa natives have been employed on the Premier Diamond Mine, where the conditions are admittedly less injurious to their health. There therefore appears to me to be ground for apprehension that, if these natives had all been employed on underground work, the rate of mortality among the British Central Africa natives would have been greatly increased. And even now it is apparently more than double the general rate among all natives employed on the mines.

4. In these circumstances, it is not easy to justify the employment of natives from the territories in question on underground work; and the natural course would seem to be to limit their employment to surface labour. This was the course which I proposed in my telegram, No. 1, of the 24th of July†; but your Ministers represent that as there is already a sufficiency of labour for surface work on the gold mines, and for work on the Premier Diamond Mine, this proposal is of no practical value to the mining industry.

5. The fact, however, that natives from non-tropical areas, who are not unfitted from considerations of health for underground labour, decline to engage for such labour though willing to undertake surface work, does not appear to me to justify the employment underground of natives from tropical areas, whose health is seriously imperilled by such employment, and who perhaps do not realise the conditions upon which they are called upon to do their work. It appears to me that it should be the first duty of the mineowners to endeavour by all means in their power to remove the objection to underground labour, by making its conditions more attractive. If this could be done, some part of the labour now volunteering for surface work might become available underground and the employment of British Central Africa natives upon surface work would then become practicable.

6. I would suggest that a serious effort might be made in the direction which I have indicated. If you can assure me that the effort is being made I shall not refuse my assent to the recruitment of further natives in the British Central Africa Protectorate and North-Eastern Rhodesia. But if it is eventually found that some part of these natives must be given employment underground I consider that the following conditions would represent the minimum that could be required to safeguard their health:—

(1) Employment underground not to commence until three months after the arrival of the natives on the Rand.
(2) Natives so employed to be paid at a higher rate than those engaged on surface labour, to compensate them for the more arduous and less desirable conditions of their employment.
(3) If after three months the rate of mortality among those employed underground exceeded 55 per 1,000 per annum, one-half of the number so employed to be relieved of underground work.
(4) If after a second three months the rate of mortality exceeded 60 per 1,000 per annum, the whole number to be so relieved.

I have, &c.,
ELGIN.

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* No. 38.

† No. 30.

No. 42.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE to THE GOVERNOR OF THE TRANSVAAL.

MY LORD, Downing Street, October 10, 1907.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 28th ultimo,* on the subject of the employment in the Rand gold mines of native labourers from the British Central Africa Protectorate, I have the honour to inform you that Mr. Casson, Director of Native Affairs in the Protectorate, has suggested that it would be a valuable additional safeguard if natives from British Central Africa employed underground were restricted to the day shifts, as it is understood to be on the night shifts that they are especially liable to contract pneumonia. He also suggested that, in the event of recruiting being resumed, it should be confined in the first instance to natives who have already worked on the mines and may therefore be regarded as to some extent acclimatized to the conditions.

2. I should be glad if you would ask your Ministers to take these suggestions into their consideration.

I have, &c.,
ELGIN.

No. 43.

SIR A. SHARPE to COLONIAL OFFICE.

(Received November 5, 1907.)

[*Answered by No.* 50.]

SIR, Fenton House, Lancaster, November 3, 1907.

FROM the enclosed extracts from private letters† which I have received from Major F. B. Pearce, C.M.G., and from Mr. J. C. Casson (Superintendent of Natives in Nyasaland), it will be seen that the question is now arising as to how employment is to be found for Nyasaland natives.

As I foreshadowed last year there has been during the current dry season a great surplus of native labourers who, after tramping long distances to Blantyre and Zomba in search of work, have been unable to find it and have returned to their homes without earning any money.

The completion of earthworks on the Shire Highlands Railway has reduced the railway company's labour needs by about 10,000 to 12,000 men.

Mr. Casson suggests that more men should be allowed to go to the Transvaal; but it seems very doubtful whether any more of this Protectorate labour is desired on the Rand.

Major Pearce's proposal is that some arrangement should be entered into with the Government of Southern Rhodesia (which should also include North-Eastern and North-Western Rhodesia) for the despatch, under Government supervision and under comfortable conditions, to Salisbury, Bulawayo, &c., of Protectorate natives who wish for well-paid work.

At present a few hundred natives are sent annually from Nyasaland to the Transvaal under agreements for 12 months' work; it now seems, however, that the cost of these men, including their expensive transport, is almost prohibitive. The number of natives who apply to Magistrates to be sent to the Transvaal—in spite of the known heavy mortality—is far in excess of the total authorised.

No natives are sent under Government supervision to any part of Rhodesia, but some 12,000 or more annually find their own way to districts south of the Zambesi, or west of the Protectorate, and there is little doubt that more would go if this emigration were supervised by Government.

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* No. 41. † Not printed.

I have already, in previous despatches, spoken of the discomforts and dangers which attend this unsupervised traffic of native labourers to and from the Protectorate, and the subject has been alluded to in more than one Annual Report.

Attention has been recently drawn to the question by the correspondence which has taken place between the High Commissioner and the Secretary of State regarding the high rate of mortality in Southern Rhodesia among native workers coming from districts north of the Zambesi, and I think the time has come when arrangements should be made with the Chartered Company (in whose territories Nyasaland labourers are very acceptable) under which a definite system would be decided on for their transport (overland) from the Protectorate to the scene of their work, and back again; and which would also provide, as simply as possible and without too elaborate conditions, for the rate of wages, manner of payment, methods of recruitment, food, clothing, medical attendance, &c., and generally fix the conditions of service. These would not require to be nearly so stringent as in the case of the Transvaal, and transport would be far simpler and less expensive. The climate of Rhodesia, moreover, is better suited to Nyasaland natives than that of the Transvaal.

Recruitment of native labourers in Nyasaland for Rhodesia should be carried out only under an agreement to be entered into by the Chartered Company with the Protectorate Government.

Almost any authorised system would be better than the present condition of affairs, under which thousands of natives find their own way to Rhodesia, suffer great hardships and starvation on their journeys, are to a large extent unprotected during their service, and are sometimes fleeced of their earnings before they get back to their homes.

The advantages to the Protectorate Government and to the labourers themselves of a recognised system are obvious:—To the Chartered Company's territories the chief gains would be a largely increased supply of labour and a definite 12 months' term of service.

With reference to the letter from the Acting Administrator of Southern Rhodesia to the High Commissioner of the 17th of June, 1907,* and its enclosures:—From enquiries made by me in Nyasaland during the past year I came to the conclusion that the heavy mortality in Rhodesia among northern labourers was, at any rate, to some extent due to:—(1) A long and fatiguing journey made under conditions of great discomfort and semi-starvation. (2) The working of men only just arrived from this journey and still suffering from its effects. (3) Possibly not enough attention to the question of compulsory clothing of the labourers, especially on leaving their daily work in the mines and at night.

Experience in the Transvaal seems to show that northern natives cannot have such matters as clothing and blankets left to their option. These require to be supplied to them by their employers, and precautions have to be taken by the employers to ensure that they are used on leaving work and at night.

I understood that up to now blankets, &c., are issued to men *who ask for them*, but that *their cost is paid by the labourer*. The northern native is extremely parsimonious, and, under such conditions, would in most cases sooner go without blankets or clothing than pay for them.

So far as Nyasaland is concerned, the only way to put the matter of the employment of native labourers in Rhodesia on a proper and satisfactory footing is a definite arrangement to be made by the two Administrations; and to ensure a good working of any such arrangement it should apply also to North-Eastern and North-Western Rhodesia. All the Administrations of these various territories would then, as far as possible, put a stop to unauthorised emigration, and Southern Rhodesia might provide measures to prevent the engagement south of the Zambesi of any native workers from the north not forwarded in the authorised manner.

I have, &c.,
ALFRED SHARPE.

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* Sub-enclosure 1 in Enclosure 3 in No. 32.

No. 44.

COLONIAL OFFICE to MR. J. C. CASSON.

[*Answered by No.* 47.]

SIR, Downing Street, November 12, 1907.

I AM directed by the Earl of Elgin to inform you that he learns that on your way to this country from the Nyasaland Protectorate, on leave of absence, you visited some of the mines in Southern Rhodesia, and paid particular attention to the conditions under which the natives of the Nyasaland Protectorate work in them.

Lord Elgin would be much obliged if you would furnish him with a report on those visits, and with any suggestions which you may have to make as to improving the conditions under which natives of the Protectorate find their way to Southern Rhodesia.

I am, &c.,
H. W. JUST.

No. 45.

THE ACTING COMMISSIONER OF THE BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA PROTECTORATE to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

(Received November 16, 1907.)

[*Answered by No.* 48.]

Government Offices, Zomba, British Central Africa,

MY LORD, October 9, 1907.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram, No. 19, of the 24th of July, 1907,* I have the honour to inform your Lordship that after a long delay I have been informed by the Agent of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association that they do not intend to recruit Nyasaland labour for the Transvaal unless the natives are permitted to work underground.

2. This being the case, recruiting will not take place in the Protectorate this year. This I greatly regret, as there is at present a very large amount of labour available for which there is no work in the country, and I fear that the result will be that thousands of natives will proceed overland of their own accord to the South African Colonies in search of work.

3. I am informed by the Resident of the Central Angoniland District that over 4,000 natives in this district alone have applied to him to be recruited for labour in South Africa, but in view of your Lordship's decision with reference to this matter, and that of the Native Labour Association, their applications have had to be refused.

4. Next year, when the heavy work on the railway has been completed, there will be many thousand additional labourers seeking for work for the purpose of finding the necessary means for paying their taxes.

5. I may perhaps mention that the Rhodesian Native Labour Bureau applied last year for permission to recruit labour in the Protectorate for work in Southern Rhodesia.

This application Sir Alfred Sharpe decided not to entertain at the time, as he felt it desirable that if Protectorate labour was permitted to proceed to work in Southern Rhodesia, the Protectorate should in some way benefit by the concession granted, and it was further considered that if Southern Rhodesia desired Protectorate labour, it would be better if the application for such was made by the Southern Rhodesia Government rather than by a private Association.

6. Another difficulty with regard to coming to a mutual agreement on this matter lay in the Protectorate obtaining a *quid pro quo*, such as was arranged when Protectorate labour was recruited for the Transvaal.

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* No. 29.

7. After some correspondence on the subject it did not appear likely that a similar concession could be obtained with regard to Southern Rhodesia, and the question of labour for that territory has, therefore, not been proceeded with.

8. Now that it appears clear that the Transvaal does not require Nyasaland labour, the necessity of finding work for the Protectorate native has assumed a somewhat more urgent character, and I venture to suggest that it would greatly relieve congestion with regard to labour in this Protectorate, if an arrangement could be come to between the Protectorate Government and the Government of Southern Rhodesia whereby regularised recruiting could take place in the Protectorate, and the labour so obtained be utilised in Southern Rhodesia. If further recruiting for the Transvaal is not to take place, the Protectorate could easily give facilities for the recruiting of 5,000 or more natives without in any way affecting the local labour supply. Indeed, I may say that in view of the large number of natives who go down independently, I am of opinion that 10,000 natives can be spared if some mutual arrangement could be made between Southern Rhodesia and this country.

9. The lines of agreement might be based on an arrangement that for each native recruited the Southern Rhodesia Government should pay 10s. Of this sum 6s. would be for hut tax, and four shillings for expenses incurred by the Protectorate Government undertaking the recruitment of the labourers in the Protectorate. It would be essential, however, that the Southern Rhodesia Government should arrange for rest-houses and a supply of food for the men recruited during their journey from the Protectorate to Southern Rhodesia, and for their return journey.

10. I am not aware whether your Lordship feels disposed to agree to my entering into communication with the Southern Rhodesia Government with regard to this matter, but as your Lordship is aware, unless regular recruiting takes place, natives leave the Protectorate of their own accord, and no one is aware of their eventual fate. The Protectorate gains nothing, and the labourer himself who proceeds of his own accord to South Africa suffers severely, while the family he leaves behind is often placed in an embarrassing position, particularly if the bread-winner happens to die while away from the Protectorate.

11. The question of employment of Protectorate labour outside the limits of the Protectorate has always been a difficult one, and I fear that it will become more difficult as time goes on unless some means are found to prevent the promiscuous departure from the Protectorate of natives who cannot be regularly recruited within it.

12. On the arrival of Sir William Manning I will show him this despatch and talk over the matter generally with him. If he considers it desirable to continue the matter he will, no doubt, in due course communicate further with your Lordship.

I have, &c.,
F. B. PEARCE,
Acting Commissioner.

No. 46.

THE ACTING COMMISSIONER OF THE BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA PROTECTORATE to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

(Received November 25, 1907.)

Government Offices, Zomba, British Central Africa,
MY LORD, October 16, 1907.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, copy of correspondence which has been addressed to the Superintendent of Native Affairs by the Secretary of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association showing, *inter alia*, the deaths of the Nyasaland natives in the employ of the Premier Mine for the period March 1st to August 27th, 1907, inclusive.

2. There were originally 488 natives employed by this mine, and it will be

seen from the attached list that the death-rate is still excessive, although the natives appear to be well looked after, and every consideration shown them.

I have, &c.,
F. B. PEARCE,
Acting Commissioner.

Enclosure in No. 46.

SECRETARY, Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, to the SUPERINTENDENT OF NATIVE AFFAIRS, Zomba.

Chamber of Mines' Buildings, Johannesburg,
SIR, September 12, 1907.

I HAVE the honour to enclose herewith copy of statement showing the wages earned by the British Central Africa natives on the Premier Mine during the months of May, June, and July.

I also beg to enclose a report, supported by statement, made by our Medical Officer upon these natives.

I have, &c.,
A. W. DIX,
Secretary.

STATEMENT FOR WITWATERSRAND NATIVE LABOUR ASSOCIATION, LIMITED.

Month.	No. of British Central Africa Natives Employed.	No. of Shifts Worked.	Total Amount Earned.	Average per Shift.
			£ s. d.	s. d.
May	485	12,294	1,536 15 3	2 6
June	469	11,611	1,451 7 9	
July	463	11.311	1,413 17 0	
Totals	1,417	35,216	4,402 0 0	2 6

MEDICAL OFFICER to the GENERAL MANAGER, Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, Limited, Johannesburg.

SIR, Johannesburg, September 4, 1907.

I BEG to report that on August 28th, I visited the Premier Mine, to make enquiries concerning the British Central Africa natives allotted there in March of this year.

I inspected a number of them; none of those I saw were emaciated or poor; they were apparently in excellent condition, but the mortality amongst them has been heavy.

There have been 26 deaths, or 5·65 per cent. in six months.

Of the 26 deaths, 23 were due to pneumonia, one to enteric fever, and two to meningitis, as shown in the accompanying return.

These boys have received every consideration; they have never been on night shift, nor have they been at work below in the mine, and they have recently been housed in a separate compound.

I have, &c.,
G. A. TURNER,
Medical Officer.

WITWATERSRAND NATIVE LABOUR ASSOCIATION, LIMITED.

Statement showing Deaths of British Central Africa Natives (in the employ of the Premier Mine) from March 1st to August 27th, 1907.

Date of Admission.	Name.	No.	Tribe.	British Central Africa No.	Date of Death.	Cause of Death.
1907.					1907.	
March 7th ...	Bwanandogo ...	9,514	Lipongo ...	85	March 12th	Purulent meningitis.
March 7th ...	Manya... ...	9,889	Yao ...	634	March 13th	Pneumonia.
April 11th ...	Chipandi ...	9,735	„ ...	361	April 23rd ...	Pneumonia, heart failure.
April 23rd ...	Mlosi	9,718	„ ...	656	April 29th ...	Double pneumonia, pericarditis.
May 2nd ...	Miamba ...	9,615	„ ...	79	May 3rd ...	Meningitis.
May 5th ...	Bwanali ...	9,849	„ ...	285	May 5th ...	Pneumonia, meningitis.
May 2nd ...	Chipete ...	9,787	„ ...	268	May 9th ...	Pneumonia.
May 2nd ...	Kachingwe ...	9,895	„ ...	717	May 10th ...	Pneumonia.
May 9th ...	M'dala... ...	9,836	„ ...	356	May 10th ...	Meningitis, pneumonia.
May 2nd ...	Abdala ...	9,700	„ ...	643	May 14th ...	Double pneumonia.
May 14th ...	Pound... ...	9,730	... ...	229	May 19th ...	Pleuro pneumonia.
May 13th ...	Asani	9,602	... ...	191	May 23rd ...	Pneumonia, heart failure.
June 1st ...	Inwenda ...	9,950	... ...	607	June 4th ...	Pneumonia.
June 3rd ...	Idi	9,878	... ...	714	June 9th ...	Pneumonia, heart failure.
June 6th ...	Palaso	9,901	... ...	314	June 16th ...	Pneumonia.
June 21st ...	Hanja	9,686	... ...	669	June 24th ...	Enteric fever.
June 28th ...	George ...	9,814	... ...	225	July 3rd ...	Pneumonia.
July 3rd ...	M'linde ...	9,819	... ...	214	July 8th ...	Double pneumonia.
July 1st ...	Kwanda ...	9,616	... ...	9	July 9th ...	Pneumonia, jaundice.
July 1st ...	Adam	9,600	... ...	170	July 9th ...	Pneumonia.
June 12th ...	Kaisa	9,945	... ...	322	July 14th ...	Double pneumonia.
July 8th ...	Johnny ...	9,698	... ...	725	July 16th ...	Pneumonia.
July 19th ...	Gwedesa ...	9,952	... ...	5	July 24th ...	Pneumonia.
July 31st ...	Magombo ...	656	... ...	—	August 8th...	Pneumonia, meningitis.
July 20th ...	Kalonga ...	9,666	... ...	188	August 6th...	Pneumonia.
August 13th...	Lopa	597	... ...	—	August 14th	Double pneumonia.

In Hospital, August 22, 1907.

Pulmonary diseases	6
Other diseases	12
	18

No. 47.

MR. J. C. CASSON to COLONIAL OFFICE.

(Received November 26, 1907.)

[*Answered by No. 51.*]

SIR, 42, Elm Park Road, Finchley, N., November 25, 1907.

IN reply to your letter dated the 12th of November, 1907,* I have the honour to submit herewith a report upon Nyasaland natives working in Rhodesia, together

* No. 44.

with certain suggestions for their future control and for improving the conditions under which natives of the Protectorate find their way to Southern Rhodesia.

I beg to call special attention to the fact that with no control, as at present, it is impossible to supervise the temporary migration of Nyasaland natives, or to obtain reliable details with regard to natives dying in Southern Rhodesia, whose wives and relatives are therefore left in doubt as to their existence or probable return to their homes. Neither is it possible to have any accurate statistics of any kind.

The scheme I have suggested obviates active recruiting and limits the migration to those natives who *voluntarily* wish to go outside the Protectorate in search of work. Active recruiting would possibly cause active, though perhaps unreasonable, opposition from certain quarters.

The Pass Officers referred to in the scheme could also act as Labour Inspectors within the Protectorate; the officer to be stationed at Zomba would be of considerable assistance to me both in my office and in connection with outdoor duties; at the present time I have no assistant and find it sometimes impossible to undertake necessary personal inquiries at a distance from Zomba owing to pressure of work in my office.

I have, &c.,
J. CHAS. CASSON,
Superintendent of Native Affairs,
Nyasaland.

Enclosure in No. 47.

REPORT AND SUGGESTIONS relating to Nyasaland Natives at work in, and proceeding to, Southern Rhodesia, by J. C. CASSON, Superintendent of Native Affairs, Nyasaland.

London, November, 1907.

1. During my journey on foot and bicycle from Fort Jameson in North-Eastern Rhodesia to Broken Hill in North-Western Rhodesia, a distance of 350 miles, I overtook a number of gangs of natives of Nyasaland who were proceeding in search of work.

2. These gangs varied in number from 3 or 4 to 20 and were composed of the following tribes:—

Yaos from the South Nyasaland District.
Achipeta from the Central Angoniland District.
Atonga and others from the West Nyasa District.
Angoni from the Mombera District.

3. The gangs proceeding from Nyasaland in search of work either follow the old mail route from Fort Jameson to Salisbury (which runs along the western border of Portuguese East Africa) viâ Feira on the Zambesi River, or the new mail route from Fort Jameson to Broken Hill.

4. On this latter route there is a gold mine, known as the Sasare Mine, which is situated about 100 miles from Fort Jameson. Most of the gangs proceeding along this route call at this mine on the chance of finding work.

5. The development of this mine is proceeding but slowly, only four stamps being at work; the number of natives employed is therefore small. At the date of my visit (30th July, 1907), there were between 200 and 300 natives at work. The majority of these were Angoni from the Mombera District of Nyasaland; all the natives on the mine were from Nyasaland.

6. The wage paid (five to eight or ten shillings a month) was not much more than the wage paid to labourers in Nyasaland (three to six shillings a month). Shelter was provided for the workers in native-built huts; a weekly allowance of one shilling (sometimes less) per man was made for food, the supplies being brought in once a week by natives from villages in the surrounding district. Each gang made its own arrangements for food and the meals were generally prepared in the usual native fashion by women who had accompanied the gangs from Nyasaland. The water supply was only fair in quality and not plentiful at the date of my visit (dry season).

7. Underground mining was carried on by means of short adits (100 to 150 yards long) driven into the side of the hill at three different levels, the gold-bearing material being brought out in small trucks, by natives, on a tramway running down the hill side to the stamps. Two shifts were worked in the 24 hours—no work on Sundays.

8. Those natives who fail to find work at Sassare proceed either to Broken Hill (250 miles further on) or, upon reaching the banks of the Loangwa River proceed southwards into Southern Rhodesia entering that territory either at Feira or at some other point.

9. At Broken Hill, work on the mines is practically suspended and I found many Nyasaland natives who had tramped from 400 to 500 miles on the chance of finding work, without employment. The mine work is at present all on the surface. The work in the very small settlement at Broken Hill was being done almost entirely by Nyasaland natives, including the erection of some brick buildings for the Administration, undertaken by natives from Blantyre, nearly 700 miles away.

10. In Southern Rhodesia I estimate that over 5,000 Nyasaland natives are annually engaged for various kinds of work. This estimate is based upon the number of passes issued in Nyasaland. The majority of them are from the Lake Province.

11. The majority of these natives leave the Protectorate by the road leading to Fort Jameson, at which place many of them are engaged or signed on by Mr. Verreker, the Agent of the Rhodesia Native Labour Bureau, an organisation constituted under Section 8 of Ordinance No. 11 of 1906 (Southern Rhodesia).

12. Applications have been made on two occasions to the Governor of the Nyasaland Protectorate by persons desirous of actively recruiting natives in the Protectorate on behalf of the Rhodesia Native Labour Bureau. These have been refused, as no direct application from the Rhodesia Native Labour Bureau (hereinafter referred to as "the R.N.L.B.) supported by the Administration of Rhodesia, has ever been made.

13. It has not been possible, therefore, to organise or control in any way the journey from Nyasaland to Southern Rhodesia undertaken by the large number of natives who *voluntarily* leave Nyasaland yearly viâ Fort Jameson and Feira, &c.

During 1906 I opened direct communication with the Chief Native Commissioners of Mashonaland and Matabeleland and arranged for reports of the deaths of Nyasaland natives to be forwarded to me. Such reports have been sent to me from time to time and I have gathered from them that a very high death-rate has been shown at certain mines in Southern Rhodesia, notably the Ayrshire Mine, the Wanderer Mine, and others. This high death-rate, sometimes equalling that of Nyasaland natives in the Transvaal mines, appears, notwithstanding that (*a*) Nyasaland natives, on arrival in Southern Rhodesia, customarily give other than the right names of themselves, their chiefs, tribes, and villages; and (*b*) that owing to the officials of Southern Rhodesia not having any knowledge of the tribal languages of Nyasaland, frequent mistakes must and do arise in noting the place of origin of natives signed on for labour. The actual death-rate is, therefore, probably higher than is shown by official figures.

15. As my journey home viâ North-Eastern, North-Western, and Southern Rhodesia was undertaken by me in my private capacity, I was unable to visit mines and other centres in Southern Rhodesia for the purpose of making full official enquiries. The time occupied on my journey had, moreover, to be taken out of my six months' leave period, and all additional expenditure by me incurred on the journey was at my own expense. I was able, however, to visit Wankie, the coal mining centre, and here I found some Nyasaland natives at work, and they appeared to be contented, happy, and healthy. The Wankie District has, I believe, a fairly hot climate and suits Nyasaland natives.

16. I was enabled to arrange an interview at Bulawayo with Mr. Taylor, the Chief Native Commissioner there. He informed me that improvement in the care and attention bestowed by employers (especially at mines) in Southern Rhodesia was greater now than in the past and that as opportunity arose the conditions under which natives' labour would be further improved from time to time. Mr. Taylor mentioned that as the mines and mine-owners' profits were not of the same high standard as in the case of the Rand Mines of the Transvaal, the rate of pay and conditions of service in Southern Rhodesia must of necessity be, respectively, less in amount and not so perfect. On the mines pay averages 22s. 6d. a

month for underground work and 15s. a month for surface work, *i.e.*, 9d. and 6d. a day. Farm labourers average 15s. a month. Domestic servants (male) get as much as from £3 to £5 a month. Nyasaland natives are described by Mr. Taylor in his last Report (March, 1907) on Native Affairs, to be the best workers in Southern Rhodesia. This statement indicates that a very large number is employed.

17. I am of opinion, however, that at some of the mines, at any rate in Southern Rhodesia, but little attempt is made to care for native welfare generally so long as a supply of labourers is forthcoming somehow and from somewhere.

18. At the present time, however, and so long as Nyasaland natives are allowed to go in thousands voluntarily to Southern Rhodesia without any control or supervision of any sort or kind being possible, no adequate steps can be taken to watch over them. Once they are over the Nyasaland border they are out of the control of the Nyasaland authorities. During the past two years many hundreds of natives have applied to me personally in Zomba to be sent to work outside of Nyasaland, but I have had to refuse them assistance for the following reasons, viz.:—

(*a*) The Government of Nyasaland did not undertake to engage natives for *any* employers.

(*b*) No machinery existed for enrolling or dispatching natives for distant parts, except for the Transvaal under certain restrictions applicable to a limited number of natives only; and no funds have been available for such a purpose.

19. I therefore beg to make the following suggestions:—

(*a*) That a Government Labour Migration Bureau be established in Nyasaland, with head office at Zomba and branches at, probably, Fort Johnston for South Nyasa, Dowa for Central Angoniland, Chintechi for West Nyasa, Mzimba for Mombera District and North Nyasa District.

(*b*) That Pass Officers be appointed at salaries of £200 to £300 by £10 yearly increments for each of the five centres, Zomba, Fort Johnston, Dowa, Chintechi, and Mzimba.

(*c*) That arrangements be made with the R.N.L.B. to the end that all natives who voluntarily apply at either of the Pass Offices to be sent to South Africa, be given a pass (free of cost to native) and sent on to the R.N.L.B. Agent at Fort Jameson.

(*d*) That the R.N.L.B. shall pay a capitation fee of five shillings to the Nyasaland Government for every native received at their Fort Jameson Agency and also a six shilling tax for every such native over the age of 16 years, to be deducted later by R.N.L.B. from natives' deferred pay.

(*e*) That the R.N.L.B. shall supply a blanket to every native, and food between Fort Jameson and destination in Southern Rhodesia, establishing food depôt or depôts along the route from Fort Jameson to Feira (possibly one at Mwanachisanga(?) would be sufficient), and between Feira and destination.

(*f*) That the R.N.L.B. shall erect and maintain in good order rest-houses along the route at convenient points and provide ferries where necessary, *e.g.*, at the Loangwa and Zambesi Rivers.

(*g*) That the natives receive one-third only of their pay whilst at work in Southern Rhodesia, the remaining two-thirds being treated as deferred pay and remitted to the Superintendent of Native Affairs, Zomba, for the benefit of the natives on their return.

20. In support of the above suggestions I beg to submit that:—As regards (*a*) and (*b*) the necessary expenditure to be incurred would be more than met by the capitation fees to be paid by the R.N.L.B. (*vide* (*d*)) by the increased hut-tax revenue resulting from the six shilling taxes (instead of three shillings) to be paid (*vide* (*d*)), and by the increase in Customs duties which would result from the pur-

chase of goods in Nyasaland by returning natives out of their two-thirds deferred pay. For example, if 5,000 natives go to Southern Rhodesia there will be:—

5,000 capitation fees of 5s.	£1,250
5,000 6s. taxes instead of 3s. taxes, an increase of	750
Estimated deferred pay for each native to receive and spend = £6, or for 5,000 natives = £30,000, giving an increase in Custom duty	3,000
	£5,000

21. A result similar to the above has already obtained in connection with the recruitment of natives for the Transvaal; definite figures in relation to this I could give on return to Zomba, if required.

22. As regards (*c*):—I propose to do away with the charge of one shilling for permit or pass to leave the Protectorate at present payable by natives under the British Central Africa Native Labour Ordinance, 1904. It most frequently happens that natives requiring passes have not the necessary shilling and the charge induces them to evade getting a pass at all, their identity being thus lost.

23. As regards (*d*):—The R.N.L.B. would not, I imagine, be unwilling to pay this small capitation fee. It is within my knowledge that they have offered a higher payment as commission to certain persons who have offered to actively recruit labourers in Nyasaland. At present Nyasaland gets absolutely nothing in return for the thousands of labourers who proceed annually to Southern Rhodesia; in the Transvaal, the produce of Nyasaland enters free of duty.

24. As regards (*e*):—The establishment of a food depôt or depôts along the route is absolutely necessary, for the reason that the native villagers along the route in North-Eastern Rhodesia could not supply the amount of food required, and, even if they could, they would charge prohibitive prices which would compel travelling natives to proceed on their journey without food. On the other hand, no difficulty would be experienced by an agent of the R.N.L.B. in purchasing food supplies at reasonable prices (there is a white settler at or near Mwanachisanga who did this for the Witwatersrand Native Labour Bureau). The natives of North-Eastern Rhodesia are not hospitably inclined towards travelling natives of strange tribes.

25. As regards (*f*):—Rest-houses are necessary along this route (Fort Jameson to Feira). So many natives have in the past few years fallen sick and died that the route is now infested with man-eating lions. Lack of food has often compelled travelling gangs of natives to leave a sick companion by the wayside to recover or die. I was informed by Mr. Thornicroft, the Magistrate at Petauke, North-Eastern Rhodesia, that the number of natives found dead in his district has increased yearly and that the number killed by lions has also increased.

25*a*. The route was the old mail route from Fort Jameson to Feira and Salisbury. It is now deserted as a mail route and I believe the track is not hoed or freed from grass. The Administration of North-Eastern Rhodesia should be requested to have the track hoed once a year after the rains.

26. As regards (*g*):—There should be no objection on the part of the R.N.L.B. to this. The idea was originated in Nyasaland in connection with labourers recruited for the Transvaal. It was subsequently adopted by the Administrator of North-Eastern Rhodesia in a similar connection and, later, also applied to natives recruited in North-Eastern Rhodesia for work in Southern Rhodesia. The object of the scheme is to prevent the native spending the whole of his wages during the term of his employment and returning empty-handed to his relations; it being realised that for him to do so offers no inducement to other natives to seek work when they can see no material result accruing from so doing. Another reason is that the labourer does not require, while working, the full amount of his wage, which, if spent, is, to a certain proportion, spent unprofitably.

27. Some objection to such a scheme might be raised by planters and others in Nyasaland, either individually or through the Blantyre Chamber of Commerce, on the ground that sufficient labour cannot be obtained for their plantations. Such objections would be obviated if the Pass Officers suggested above were made centres for sending labour to the Shiré Highlands, and I have every reason to think that natives could be induced to sign on for periods of 12 months' work, which would get

over the difficulty of the shortage of labour in the rainy season which has hitherto occurred yearly in the Shiré Highlands.

28. Such an arrangement would, I feel sure, prove highly satisfactory to the planters and other employers of labour, to the natives, and to the Government, and would do away with private recruiting or touting, which I consider unsatisfactory to the natives and to the District Residents in charge of them.

29. I am prepared to submit a detailed scheme if it be considered desirable.

30. It is well known, moreover, that it is only during the rainy season (November to March) that a scarcity of labour exists in the Shiré Highlands, and that in the dry season many thousands of Nyasaland labourers cannot obtain employment.

31. This glut of labour in the dry season is becoming very serious. It might be lessened perhaps by excluding the four or five thousand natives who annually come into the Shiré Highlands from adjoining Portuguese territory lying to the west of the Shiré River. This could be done by the promulgation of a Proclamation to regulate the admission of alien natives into Nyasaland and provide for the supervision of such natives whilst residing in that territory.

32. A Proclamation (No. 19 of 1904) for a similar purpose in the case of Barotziland (North-Western Rhodesia) was published in the "Official Gazette" of the High Commissioner for South Africa on the 12th of August, 1904.

33. The Portuguese natives annually take large sums of cash out of Nyasaland into Portuguese territory to the loss of the Hut-tax Revenue and the Customs Revenue of Nyasaland, amounting to many hundreds of pounds, and at the same time thousands of Nyasaland natives are unable to earn the money necessary to pay their taxes.

34. The glut of labour is likely to be greater in the future now that the railway works are practically completed.

35. I have perhaps entered into matters which do not appear to bear directly upon the questions of the employment of Nyasaland natives in Southern Rhodesia and of improving the conditions under which they find their way to Southern Rhodesia, but I considered it better to refer to them, as tending to show the difficulty Nyasaland natives (especially those of the Lake Province) have in finding employment within the borders of Nyasaland. This difficulty is tending to increase as the area under cultivation by Europeans is likely to be less in 1908 than in 1907 and 1906.

36. Finally, I beg to suggest that—in order that I may be able to report more in detail upon the actual conditions under which Nyasaland natives work in Southern Rhodesia, and upon their journey overland viâ Fort Jameson and Feira—I may be directed to make an official visit to the mines and other properties in Southern Rhodesia and submit a full report as I did in 1903 to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs upon the conditions under which Nyasaland natives worked in the mines of the Transvaal.

37. Such a journey would cost from £100 to £150—a small sum when the importance of the subject is considered as effecting the welfare of many thousands of Nyasaland natives, and also affecting the Hut-tax Revenue of the Nyasaland Protectorate.

Should it be desired, I shall be very glad to have an opportunity of elucidating any point upon which I may not have expressed myself with sufficient fulness or clearness. In this connection I may mention that I am leaving England on the 27th of December on my return to my duties in Nyasaland.

J. Chas. Casson,
Superintendent of Native Affairs, Nyasaland.

London,
November 23, 1907.

No. 48.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE to THE ACTING GOVERNOR OF THE NYASALAND PROTECTORATE.

SIR, Downing Street, December 3, 1907.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Major Pearce's despatch

of the 9th of October,* in which he represented that there was a surplus of native labour available in the Nyasaland Protectorate, and suggested an arrangement with the Administrator of Southern Rhodesia with a view to the supply of labourers to the Rhodesian mines.

2. By this time you will have received my despatch of the 16th of August,† in which I asked for certain reports and for recommendations for improving the present unsatisfactory condition of the emigration of natives from North-Eastern Rhodesia in search of work further south. In making your observations on that subject you will, no doubt, indicate the lines on which you would propose to proceed for the protection of Nyasaland natives in the same circumstances, and I shall hope to have your views thereon before I deal further with the question of the supply of Nyasaland labour to Southern Rhodesia. I shall, in the meantime, obtain the observations of Sir Alfred Sharpe on a report which Mr. Casson has written on the subject, and shall hope to address you further by the mail of the 27th of December.

3. I may, however, at once take the opportunity of commenting on the fifth paragraph of Major Pearce's despatch, where he states that the application of the Rhodesian Native Labour Bureau for permission to recruit in Nyasaland was refused last year on two grounds, one of which was that the Protectorate ought to have some benefit in return. If, however, as would now appear to be the case, the need of an outlet for Nyasaland labour is more urgent than is the demand of other territories for that labour, the Administration of the Protectorate is no longer in a position to insist on a reciprocal benefit, whether by way of customs concessions or otherwise, and must be content to secure the advantages of employment for the labourers.

4. The other ground on which the application was refused was that it should have come from the Administration of Southern Rhodesia and not from a private association. I am disposed to agree that it is desirable that the Southern Rhodesia Administration should be in some way responsible for the arrangements made, but it would be contrary to the policy which has hitherto been pursued in that territory for the Government to act directly in the importation of native labour in the manner which seems to have been contemplated. In any further negotiations which may take place you will, no doubt, bear in mind that the Rhodesian Native Labour Bureau is a responsible body, and is sufficiently under the control of the Administration of Southern Rhodesia to justify you in permitting it to recruit in Nyasaland, provided that you can make satisfactory arrangements with the Rhodesian authorities in regard to the supervision of its operations in their territories and generally as to the treatment of the natives while at work.

I have, &c.,
ELGIN.

No. 49.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE to THE GOVERNOR OF THE TRANSVAAL.

MY LORD, Downing Street, December 6, 1907.

WITH reference to my despatches of the 28th of September and the 10th of October,‡ I have the honour to state, for the information of your Ministers, that the Administrator of the Nyasaland Protectorate has forwarded to me a copy of a report by the Medical Officer of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association on the Protectorate natives employed on the Premier Mine, from which it appears that the death-rate among these natives for the six months up to August last was at the rate of 113 per 1,000 per annum.

I have, &c.,
ELGIN.

No. 50.

COLONIAL OFFICE to SIR A. SHARPE.

[*Answered by No. 53.*]

SIR, Downing Street, December 10, 1907.

WITH reference to your letter of the 3rd of November,§ I am directed by the

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* No. 45. † No. 34. ‡ Nos. 41 and 42. § No. 43.

Earl of Elgin to transmit to you, for your consideration, the accompanying copy of a letter* which has been received from Mr. J. C. Casson enclosing a report on his recent enquiry into the conditions of labour of natives of Nyasaland in Southern Rhodesia.

2. Lord Elgin doubts whether it is advisable to establish a Government Department in Nyasaland for exporting labour unless and until it is quite certain that the object of controlling the emigration of labourers with a view to improving their condition cannot be attained in any other way. He wishes, therefore, to be assured whether the Rhodesian Native Labour Bureau could not, and would not, take any necessary steps in the matter, of course under Government supervision, and, if the Bureau cannot carry out the work, whether it would not be possible to organise a body in Nyasaland on the same general lines as the Bureau. You will observe that in paragraph 27 of his report Mr. Casson suggests that his proposed Government Bureau should disarm local opposition by collecting labour for Nyasaland planters, and it appears to Lord Elgin that it would be possible for the planters to form a bureau of their own, under efficient Government supervision, which would hand over surplus labour to Rhodesia as Rhodesia hands over surplus labour to the Rand.

3. In view of Mr. Casson's report, Lord Elgin considers that it is desirable that the Government of Nyasaland should insist on the seconding of an experienced officer of the Protectorate service to help the Native Department of Southern Rhodesia, on the understanding that the cost of the arrangement will be borne by the Rhodesian Native Labour Bureau.

4. When some definite arrangement has been made with the authorities in Rhodesia, it will probably be necessary for Mr. Casson to be sent officially to visit the Rhodesian mines, but for the present it is doubtful whether any good purpose would be served by doing so.

5. Lord Elgin observes that Mr. Casson states in his letter that he is hampered in the proper performance of his duties by the absence of clerical assistance at headquarters, with the result that the pressure of work in his office causes him to neglect travelling. His Lordship considers this most regrettable, and it will be necessary to consider whether a clerk should not be appointed to assist Mr. Casson.

6. His Lordship will be glad to be furnished with your views on these points and, generally, on the proposals contained in Mr. Casson's report. I am, however, to point out that, as it appears that the need for an outlet for Nyasaland labour is now more urgent than the demand of other territories for that labour, the Administration of the Protectorate must be content to secure the advantages of employment for the labourers, and is no longer in a position to insist on a reciprocal benefit, whether by way of customs concessions or otherwise.

7. I am to request that you will at the same time inform me whether you are prepared to recommend that the extra expense referred to in paragraph 15 of the report should be refunded to Mr. Casson.

8. As his Lordship desires to communicate with the Acting Governor by the mail of the 28th of December, he will be glad if you will reply to this letter at an early date.

I am, &c.,
C. P. LUCAS.

No. 51.

COLONIAL OFFICE to MR. J. C. CASSON.

SIR, Downing Street, December 10, 1907.

I AM directed by the Earl of Elgin to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th of November,* and to convey to you his Lordship's thanks for your interesting and valuable report on the condition of natives of Nyasaland proceeding to and working in Southern Rhodesia.

I am, &c.,
C. P. LUCAS.

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* No. 47.

No. 52.

MR. J. C. CASSON to COLONIAL OFFICE.

(Received December 11, 1907.)

SIR, 42, Elm Park Road, Finchley, N., December 10, 1907.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter, dated the 5th December, 1907,* informing me that the death-rate of Nyasaland natives at the Premier Mine has been *for a period of six months* at the rate of 113 per 1,000 *per annum*.

2. I venture to think that the death-rate will work out at a considerably lower figure at the end of the *period of one year*, as those who have succumbed are, in all probability, the weakest of the gang and the remainder had, at the end of the six months completed, already passed through the cold season; deaths amongst them are not, therefore, so likely to occur during the last six months.

3. My suggestion, however, was confined to natives who have already served a period of 12 months in the Transvaal mines and returned to Nyasaland, thereby proving, to a large extent, their fitness for the work and climate.

I have, &c.,
J. CHAS. CASSON.

No. 53.

SIR A. SHARPE to COLONIAL OFFICE.

(Received December 14, 1907.)

SIR, London, December 13, 1907.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th of December,† dealing with the subject of the annual exodus of native labourers from the Nyasaland Protectorate to various parts of Rhodesia in search of work, and transmitting to me a copy of a letter from Mr. J. C. Casson, enclosing a report on his recent enquiry into the conditions of labour of natives of Nyasaland in Southern Rhodesia.

Since I wrote to you on the 3rd of November,‡ I have had the opportunity of ascertaining, roughly, the views held by the Chartered Company on this "alien labour" question, and of meeting Mr. Codrington, the Administrator of North-Western Rhodesia (formerly the Administrator of North-Eastern Rhodesia), who has an intimate knowledge of the conditions attending the annual emigration of Nyasaland native workers.

I find that the Chartered Company are ready to come to some arrangement with the Protectorate Government for the regulation of the passage to and fro of workers, and that Mr. Codrington is strong on the point that Government supervision is required in the interest of the natives.

The main views expressed by Mr. Casson in his report are correct, but some of the detailed proposals made by him would be inadvisable.

I think that perhaps the best way of getting the matter settled with as little delay as possible, will be for me to go into the whole question with Mr. Codrington. I believe I am right in saying that the Directors of the Chartered Company will be content to accept and carry out such propositions as Mr. Codrington agrees to. When we have arrived at an agreement as to what is practicable and workable, and acceptable both to the Administrations of Rhodesia and the Protectorate, the details of such agreement could be placed before the Secretary of State for his approval.

It is not a matter in which we can lay down drastic conditions. What is required is a proper supervision of the existing traffic and an amelioration of the conditions attending it. Nyasaland natives *will*, in any case, find their way south in search of highly-paid work, and it will not be difficult to arrive at a simple and easily workable system to regulate such traffic.

From discussions I have had with Mr. Codrington during the past few days, we are practically in agreement. I am now supplying him, through Mr. Casson,

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* Not printed. † No. 50. ‡ No. 43.

with the details of the system of collection and transport of Nyasaland natives to the Transvaal; and on Monday next (the 16th of December), we should be able to give a precise statement of what is proposed.

To refer to your letter of the 10th of December,* the following is a rough sketch of the manner in which I propose to deal with the question:—

(1) There will be no "recruitment" in Nyasaland of natives to work in Rhodesia. No recruiters will be allowed, nor will any system of "touting" be countenanced. It is not desirable that Nyasaland should be used as a touting ground for labour outside. All that is needed is to provide proper transport, proper treatment, food, pay, and care, for such Nyasaland natives as insist on going outside

(2) District Magistrates will act, with regard to natives wishing to go to Rhodesia, in the same way as they now do in the case of men desiring to go to the Transvaal; that is, they will receive parties of men who desire to go south, make out the lists, examine them for general suitability, and forward them to the receiving depôt, which should be at Fort Jameson.

(3) On arrival at Fort Jameson with lists and "passes," the men will be received by the Agent of the Rhodesian Government, who will have a strict medical examination for fitness carried out. They will then be forwarded by the direct road to Broken Hill, where they will reach the railway.

(4) Food and shelters will be provided at proper stages along the road (by the Rhodesian Government).

(5) At Broken Hill a second examination for fitness will be made, after which the men will be sent by rail to Southern Rhodesia.

(6) In Southern Rhodesia Mr. Codrington proposes that the "alien" labour of all kinds shall be received by a Rhodesian Government Officer (to be provided with a department if necessary), to deal with this work. He is opposed to placing "alien" labour in the hands of any labour bureau or Chamber of Mines.

(7) At Fort Jameson every man will be provided with a blanket for the journey. A second blanket to be issued on arrival at the scene of labour.

(8) The pay to be given will be set out in the agreements attached to the lists of names, and will be at current rates (which are, I believe, about 15s. a month).

(9) Only half the pay will be given while at the scene of work, the remaining half being held over, and eventually paid the men on arrival at their homes in Nyasaland. This is essential; it does away, to a great extent with the necessity for returning labourers carrying considerable sums of money on their persons; and also assures their return to their villages with some means..

(10) The Rhodesian Government will defray all the cost of transport, food, &c., from the Protectorate to Rhodesia, and back again, and will make arrangements with the employers for their own reimbursement. The labourer will pay nothing (his two blankets will be issued gratis).

(11) The term of service will be for 12 months..

(12) All the conditions will, of course, be fully explained to the men by the Magistrate when they are "written down" (as is done in the case of labourers going to the Transvaal).

(13) The Rhodesian Government will be responsible to the Nyasaland Government for the payment of wages earned, and for proper care of the men on their journeys; and will see to the insistance in Rhodesia on proper treatment by employers, medical attention, and other details.

With reference to paragraph 2 of your letter, I do not propose that there should be any Government Department in Nyasaland to deal with outgoing labour. This, as with labour for the Transvaal, will come under Mr. Casson's Department.

I am of the same opinion as Mr. Codrington, that it would be inadvisable to put powers with respect to Nyasaland or Northern Zambesi labour in the hands of any independent bureau or chamber in Southern Rhodesia.

The establishment of an independent labour bureau in the Nyasaland Protectorate has already been tried. A bureau existed for some time; the experiment did not turn out satisfactorily, and the association has now ceased to exist.

At one time the Government of Nyasaland collected labour for local planters. This system was abolished a few years ago, and I should not myself propose to revert to it, at this date at any rate.

With reference to paragraph 3, it would undoubtedly be of advantage to Rhodesia and to the Protectorate if an experienced officer from Nyasaland were seconded to assist the Native Department in Southern Rhodesia; provided that the Government of that territory were willing to pay the cost (which, I think, is doubtful).

I do not see any necessity for another visit by Mr. Casson to Rhodesia at present.

With regard to paragraph 4, Mr. Casson has not hitherto made any complaint to me that he is hampered in his work for want of clerical assistance; but I will look into this on my return to Nyasaland in February, and should I then find any necessity for the appointment of a clerk, I will commuicate with you on the subject.

Referring to paragraph 6, I do not propose to ask the Rhodesian Government for any concessions in return for an increased labour supply. I agree with the view you express, that what is wanted is an amelioration of the present conditions of Nyasaland labour emigration, and that the advantages to the Protectorate by the establishment of a workable system are as great as to Rhodesia.

In reply to paragraph 7, I think it would be reasonable that Mr. Casson should be repaid such additional expenditure as he may have incurred on his journey home, owing to his having taken the overland route to the Cape. I consider that it showed some enterprise on his part, and indicated zeal in his work to carry out at his own expense the journey he undertook, without any prospect of being recouped his additional expenditure.

I have, &c.,
ALFRED SHARPE.

No. 54.

THE GOVERNOR OF THE TRANSVAAL to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

(Received December 28, 1907.)

[*Answered by No.* 57.]

MY LORD, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, December 9, 1907.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 28th of September,* I have the honour to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a minute which I have received from Ministers on the subject of the recruiting of native labour for the mines from the British Central Africa Protectorate and North-Eastern Rhodesia.

2. In further explanation of paragraph 2 in Ministers' Minute, I would draw your attention to the fact that, although the statistics have shown a lower rate of mortality among natives recruited from British Central Africa and North-Eastern Rhodesia employed on surface work than those employed underground, it has never yet been admitted by the authorities as a certain fact that surface work is healthier to these natives than underground labour. It was assumed rather that the low rate of mortality among the natives employed on the Premier Mine and on surface work on the Witwatersrand mines was possibly due to the fact that many of them had been for some time on the Witwatersrand, and had, therefore, become to a certain extent acclimatised, and that when an influx took place of natives direct from Central Africa a higher rate of mortality might be looked for. This assumption I regret to say has been fully justified. A very serious epidemic of pneumonia has broken out of late on the Premier Mine which has caused the rate of mortality to rise very considerably on that mine, and has resulted in the figures of the rate of mortality for 1907 being higher than those of 1906 among natives from tropical regions north of latitude 22° employed on the Witwatersrand and Premier mines.

3. In order to ascertain so far as possible the causes which have occasioned this outbreak of pneumonia on the Premier Mine, Ministers have given instructions

* No. 41.

for an enquiry to be made by a medical board. I hope to be able to forward to your Lordship the report of this Board shortly.

I have, &c.,
SELBORNE,
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 54.

MINISTERS to GOVERNOR.

(Minute. No. 650.)

Prime Minister's Office, Pretoria, November 29, 1907.

Ministers have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of His Excellency the Governor's Minute, No. 50, of the 17th October, enclosing a copy of the Secretary of State's despatch, dated the 28th September, 1907, in reply to Ministers' further representations upon the subject of the recruitment of native labour in the British Central Africa Protectorate and North-Eastern Rhodesia for underground work on the mines.

Although the mortality from disease amongst natives employed on the Premier Mine formerly contrasted favourably with the general death-rate amongst labourers on the gold mines, it has unfortunately risen of late, owing, chiefly, to an increase in the deaths from pneumonia—especially amongst the Basutos from Basutoland. Under the circumstances, it may reasonably be assumed that the mortality amongst the British Central African natives would not have been any higher—if, indeed, as high—had they been employed upon underground work at the gold mines instead of the Premier Mine.

Attention is drawn to the fact in order to show that surface work and conditions such as are to be found on the Premier Mine cannot be admitted as absolutely reliable factors in considering the incidence of disease amongst mine employees.

Ministers fully realise that the mortality amongst natives from tropical areas has been, and still is, very high, but, having regard to the marked improvements which are shown to have taken place in the general rate, they feel justified in urging the views expressed in their previous minutes of the 10th July and 19th August, 1907.

During the last five years the rate of mortality has been as follows:—

Average for the year 1903	71·3
" " " 1904	43·4
" " " 1905	47·4
" " " 1906	34·7
Average for the first nine months of 1907	33·95

As the natives north of latitude 22° are living more or less in fever-stricken and otherwise unhealthy localities, it is only reasonable to suppose that the death-rate amongst them in their own kraals may not bear favourable comparison to the death-rate on the Witwatersrand Mines, where the labourers are provided with better accommodation, a superior dietary, close medical supervision, and where every attention is paid to their health conditions generally.

It is unfortunate that no data are available upon which any reliable estimate can be formed as to the actual mortality amongst such natives in their homes, but in all probability it is considerably in excess of what may be regarded as a normal rate.

Emphasis is laid by the Secretary of State upon the desirability of employing tropical natives in surface work. Whilst it is desirable that this should be done as far as practicable, Ministers wish to point out that the number of natives required for surface work is considerably less than those for underground work, and the supply far exceeds the demand.

Including the Premier Mine, but excluding the labour districts of Heidelberg, Klerksdorp, and Vereeniging, the numbers actually employed during September were 37,804 surface, and 79,743 underground. The proportion is, therefore, about 1 to 2.

Large numbers of Chinamen will be repatriated during the next 12 months—practically all of whom are employed underground. The immediate demand for underground labour, therefore, will be considerable, and it is with the object of meeting that demand that the Government is anxious to open up for development every possible source of the local labour supply.

It has hitherto been assumed that the working conditions on the surface are very much healthier than underground.

With a view to testing the correctness of that assumption, the enclosed return has been prepared showing the number of labourers employed underground and on surface work, and the relative mortality amongst them during September last, which is one of the most favourable months for surface employment.

It is to be regretted that no records are available for a similar return to be compiled for a period of 12 consecutive months, so that a comprehensive comparison might be drawn between the rate of mortality above and below ground throughout the varying seasons of the year.

While there seems to be little doubt that underground work is unhealthy, owing to bad air, fumes from explosion, and dust encountered in the mines, in addition to the fact that the sudden change of temperature experienced by rapid transfer from underground to the surface, must render natives who have ceased work, and the pores of whose skins are extended, liable to contract colds and pulmonary diseases, it must be borne in mind that the greater percentage of natives who work underground come from Portuguese East Africa, south and north of latitude 22°, and from the Northern Transvaal, and being accustomed to a tropical or sub-tropical climate, must be less acclimatised than those who hail from the Colonies in British South Africa, and who constitute the majority of surface workers. On the other hand, if the positions were reversed, and the acclimatised natives placed underground, while those from tropical and sub-tropical regions were confined to the surface, there would doubtless occur a diminution in the underground death-rate with an increase in the surface rate.

Some medical authorities believe that *during the winter months* tropical natives would be healthier underground than on the surface, if placed on picked mines of the outcrop class.

The death-rate among tropical natives might be reduced if arrangements could be made to place them in selected mines where conditions are most favourable, and if outcrop and deep level mines where conditions are such that the labourers are not unduly exposed between shaft head and compound, could be induced to accept all tropical natives obtained, it is probable that a further decrease in the death-rate would result.

Ministers are glad to have noticed of late a greater willingness on the part of many natives to work underground, and they feel assured that all reasonable efforts are being made by the representatives of the mining industry to overcome the objections to such work, and to make the conditions more attractive.

With this assurance, Ministers would like to submit the following observations upon the conditions which are suggested in the sixth paragraph of the Secretary of State's despatch for safeguarding the health of any natives who may be permitted to be recruited in the British Central Africa Protectorate and North-Eastern Rhodesia:—

(1) The period of three months during which it is proposed that the natives should not be allowed to work underground is so long as to make the proposal economically impracticable. One month would appear to afford sufficient time for the medical officers to decide whether the natives are physically able to undertake such work. It is to be borne in mind that the contracts are for 12 months only, and if as much as one-fourth of that term is to be restricted to surface work at the expense of the mines, the companies could ill afford to have the labour.

(2) Underground labourers always have been paid at a higher rate than those engaged on the surface. The ruling rates to-day are approximately 1s. 10d. per diem underground and 1s. 6d. per day surface.

(3) and (4) The unavoidable fluctuation in the mortality rates would render it impossible to lay down a hard and fast rule providing for relief from underground work according to a definite death-rate per 1,000.

The difficulty of applying such a rule will at once be seen from the following mortality figures relating to natives from tropical regions north of latitude 22°:—

	Death-Rate.
1906:—	
May	70·3
June	44

	July	67·1
	August	57·6
	September	47·8
	October	46
	November	79
	December	50·8
1907:—		
	January	68·1
	February	84·8
	March	94·6
	April	76
	May	88·4
	June	67·6
	July	79·5
	August	57
	September	53
	Total average	66·85

To place the labourers on and off underground labour according to such varying rates would obviously result in such a serious dislocation of the work as to render it impossible for the mining companies to accept the proposal as a business proposition.

The suggestion of the Secretary of State is based upon the impression that the variation in the death-rate is owing to an excessive mortality amongst labourers underground, but, as Ministers have already pointed out, it is not possible, in the absence of sufficient data, to ascertain to what extent that impression may be correct.

An investigation is being made into the health conditions on the Premier Mine, on the completion of which Ministers will submit a further communication to His Excellency upon the subject.

The suggestion made in the Secretary of State's further despatch, No. 377, of the 10th October to the effect that it might afford an additional safeguard towards their health if the underground employment of natives from British Central Africa were restricted to day shifts only, is being enquired into, and will be adopted as far as practicable.

The proposal that, in the event of recruiting being resumed, it should be confined in the first instance to natives who have already worked on the mines will also be taken into careful consideration.

LOUIS BOTHA.

STATEMENT.

Showing the relative rates of mortality among natives employed underground and on the surface on mines and works in labour districts during the month of September, 1907.

District.	Underground.			Surface.		
	Average No. of Natives Employed.	Deaths from Disease.	Death Rate per 1,000 per annum.	Average No. of Natives Employed.	Deaths from Disease.	Death Rate per 1,000 per annum.
Johannesburg	33,108	71	25·7	9,399	9	11·5
Krugersdorp	19,686	40	24·4	5 978	15	30·1
Boksburg	9,097	28	36·9	4,858	5	12·4
Germiston	12,640	39	37·0	6,305	5	9·5
Springs	1,510	5	39·7	899	2	26·7
Pretoria	—	—	—	9,022	35	46·6
Middelburg	3,702	9	29·2	1,343	2	17·9
Total	79,743	192	28·9	37,804	73	23·3
Exclusive of Premier Mine				28,782	38	15·8

The labour districts of Heidelberg, Klerksdorp, and Vereeniging are not included in this statement.

Ratio of natives employed underground and surface as 79,743 is to 37,804, or about $2\frac{1}{8}$ to 1; excluding Premier Mine, the ration is about $2\ \frac{11}{14}$ to 1.

Native Affairs Department,
Transvaal.

No. 55.

THE ACTING GOVERNOR OF THE NYASALAND PROTECTORATE to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

(Received December 30, 1907.)

Government House, Zomba,
Nyasaland Protectorate, November 15, 1907.

MY LORD,

WITH reference to Your Lordship's despatch of 16th of August, 1907,* I have asked Mr. Wallace, the Acting Administrator of North-Eastern Rhodesia, to furnish me with his views on those particular points concerning which your Lordship desires information, and with reference to paragraph 5 of the above-quoted despatch, I desire to make the following observations:—

2. Since the enrolment of natives for work on the mines in the Transvaal has now ceased, it would be presumed that the number of natives who proceed south in search of work is now inconsiderable. I find, however, from the records furnished by the Secretary for Native Affairs that in 1906-7 passes were issued to natives allowing them to leave the Protectorate in search of work up to the number of 2,083, but 1,592 of these passes were issued to small gangs averaging four in number; the number of natives, therefore, who journeyed south in the above period in search of work would be approximately $1,592 \times 4 = 6,368 + 491$ individual passes, or a total of 6,859 natives who received permission to proceed to other parts of Africa in search of work. The Acting Secretary for Native Affairs further informs me that it may be safely presumed that an equal number left without passes. Accepting this presumption, it would appear that a total of nearly 14,000 labourers have proceeded south in search of work, concerning which number official records as to one-half only exist.

Of the registered natives, *i.e.*, about 7,000, it is known that 172 died during the past 15 months in Southern Rhodesia and four in North-Western Rhodesia—it may be presumed that a similar number of deaths occurred among the unregistered natives. There exists no machinery for the compulsory notification of the deaths of Nyasaland natives, but the matter is voluntary on the part of Native Commissioners in Rhodesia, as is also the remittance of sums found in possession of deceased natives to their relatives in Nyasaland.

3. The recruitment of natives for work underground in the mines in the Transvaal having been prohibited in British territory, and in the case of Southern Rhodesia no agreement having been entered into as to proper recruitment, a means has been evolved of avoiding the Protectorate Labour Regulations which forbid natives being engaged for service outside the Protectorate, except under permit issued by the Governor, and it is reported that European recruiters of labour can now be found in Portuguese territory who enlist large numbers of men for work in the mines or as labourers, and that natives of this Protectorate eagerly make their way to these recruiters and are sent down to the mines. These European recruiters it is stated receive 15s. per head for all natives they recruit and the occupation must be a lucrative one, since it is further reported that one recruiter has sent down some 4,000 men to the south. The native is undiscerning as regards one European and another, and no doubt is under the impression that he is being enlisted under the same conditions and with the same provisions for his journey overland as he was when enrolled by the agents of the Witwatersrand Labour Association. No provision whatever is, of course, made for his overland journey, and he undergoes the same hardships on the journey south as the man who goes south with or without a pass.

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* No. 34.

That labour in South Africa is exceedingly popular is indisputable, and that large numbers of natives from this Protectorate proceed south annually in search of work with and without passes is also beyond doubt.

4. Two questions naturally present themselves in view of the reports received as to the mortality which occurs among Nyasaland natives:—

(1) The feasibility of preventing the exodus of natives to South Africa entirely;

(2) Or the feasibility of only allowing those who are passed as medically fit to proceed south and to provide for such, suitable accommodation in the way of rest houses and food on the route.

As regard (1) I do not believe that any prohibition could be made practical. The establishment of a cordon, if such were feasible, would be useless, since a native who will walk many hundreds of miles to South Africa will readily go a few extra hundred miles to avoid such a cordon.

(2) Medical fitness before the issue of a pass is always possible to arrange for, but since it is presumed that only half the number who proceed south arm themselves with passes, such a guarantee is practically useless, unless this pass is the only means by which a native can obtain labour when he reaches his destination (this point, however, I will refer to later).

The question of accommodation and food by the way to South Africa is also quite feasible, provided that funds are provided for the purpose, but such funds must come from those who benefit by the labour they employ, and not from the revenues of this Protectorate. But under the pass system there is no record of who employs Nyasaland labour, and, therefore, no means of asking even for a voluntary contribution towards this object, even were such a contribution within the bounds of possibility.

It, therefore, remains to be said that prohibition is not feasible and medical fitness and proper housing and feeding is feasible, but not practicable under the present conditions.

5. Though I consider the prohibition to natives to travel south is not feasible in Nyasaland, I consider that such prohibition would be made effective by action in other places, provided that it were made an offence in South Africa to employ natives of this country, and if natives of this country were punished for endeavouring to obtain work in South Africa.

I am, however, of opinion that the employment of the surplus labour of this country is an advantage, and that there should be no prohibition, but that the pass system should be enlarged and that this Protectorate should insist upon some return for permitting its labour to proceed south, and that this return should be that all expenses of registration and medical examination should be borne by the employers, that for each native given a pass a sum should be guaranteed by the eventual employers for the expenses of medical examination and for the upkeep of rest houses, for food, and for clothing (blankets) for those natives who proceed south; and since employers now will give 15s. per head to the recruiting agent, it is probable that they would be prepared to pay a sum of £1 to £2 for each native registered and passed as medically fit, such sum to be laid out in providing rest houses, food, blankets for the road, and to go towards the cost of medical inspection and registration.

I think that the sum so earned should cover the cost of erecting and keeping in order rest houses, and in providing food by the road, and in inspection, &c., of rest houses.

6. In order to recover the sum due on each native of Nyasaland employed in South Africa, it should be made a punishable offence for any employer to employ a native of Nyasaland who did not produce a pass, and any system of registration of natives at their destination proceeding to South Africa on pass must include the payment of the sum due on each labourer to this Government.

Any labourer who returned from South Africa and on whose account £1 or the sum agreed had not been paid, should be liable to pay such a sum in Nyasaland unless it were proved that from illness or any other cause he was unable to procure work.

I would further stipulate that of the wages earned by Nyasaland natives, at least two-thirds should be made payable in Nyasaland. Such a system would be a check upon the pass issued.

7. I cannot myself see any other solution of the problem, and the above is an outline only of the suggestions. Many details will be necessary and the initial outlay necessary for this scheme requires that funds must be found; such funds should more properly be forthcoming from the employer of labour, but I doubt if they would see the argument in the same light unless pressure were brought upon them by the threat of total prohibition.

8. Under present conditions the native of Nyasaland, if recruited by the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, is not permitted to work underground; if he proceeds on pass to the mines he is employed in such manner as his employer desires, and no doubt works underground.

Under the pass system it would be possible to stipulate that the bearer was only permitted to work above ground, but I doubt if such a proviso could be enforced, except by proper inspection and supervision at the mines.

9. The Acting Secretary for Native Affairs points out that of the 14,000 labourers who are presumed to have gone to South Africa in search of work this year, we have no knowledge as to where they are employed or in what manner they are employed.

10. There are still two points which have been from time to time raised in connection with the supply of labour from Nyasaland to South Africa; that in return for the supply of labour from Nyasaland, products from Nyasaland should be granted free importation into Southern Rhodesia as is done in the Transvaal. It does not seem to me that this condition should be made an essential, though Sir A. Sharpe has laid stress upon it. This country benefits in more than one way by the exportation of its surplus labour. Money for the payment of hut-taxes is earned. The trade of the country benefits by the sums expended by returning labourers who are paid a proportion of their wages in Nyasaland, and it seems to me, therefore, that the benefit is mutual. The concession has, however, been made by the Transvaal and it would seem, therefore, only right that Southern Rhodesia should make a similar concession.

11. The second point is that it should be an essential condition that Nyasaland natives should not be allowed to settle in Southern Rhodesia, and that the period of employment should not exceed 12 months.

12. The scheme as proposed would throw a considerable amount of work upon the district staff, but by good organisation it should be possible to arrange to despatch considerable parties of natives at one time during the most suitable season, and I am convinced that the labour entailed would be amply repaid by the advantage that would accrue to this Protectorate.

I have, &c.,
W. H. MANNING,
Acting Governor.

No. 56.

THE ACTING GOVERNOR OF THE NYASALAND PROTECTORATE to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

(Received 6th January, 1908.)

[*Answered by No.* 64.]

Government House, Zomba,
Nyasaland Protectorate, November 20, 1907.

MY LORD,

WITH reference to paragraph 3 of your Lordship's despatch of the 16th of August, 1907, and my despatch of the 15th of November, 1907,* I now have the honour to transmit a copy of a report made by the Acting Administrator of North-Eastern Rhodesia dealing with the conditions under which natives of that territory engage for work in Southern Rhodesia.

2. I have carefully considered Mr. Wallace's report, and the conclusions arrived by him further emphasise the necessity for regulating the exodus of natives from Nyasaland and North-Eastern Rhodesia in the manner suggested in my despatch above mentioned.

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* Nos. 34 and 55.

3. I would draw your Lordship's attention to paragraph 8 of the report, in which it is stated that natives who have offered themselves for enlistment, and who, having been rejected as medically unfit and warned not to proceed, join their friends further along the route to Feira. It is extremely probable that these weaklings fall easy victims to disease when working in a strange climate and under different conditions to those to which they are accustomed, and since it seems impossible to prevent their leaving for Southern Rhodesia, the only way to reduce the high mortality is to make it a punishable offence in Southern Rhodesia to engage natives from Nyasaland and North-Eastern Rhodesia unless they are in possession of a pass from those territories, which in itself will constitute a medical certificate.

4. With reference to the last part of paragraph 10 of the report, I do not think it would be sufficient to make it obligatory for natives to obtain passes before being allowed to cross the border, unless at the same time it were made impossible for a native to obtain work on arrival in Southern Rhodesia without being in possession of a pass from his native territory. The uncontrolled emigration would then very soon cease.

I have, &c.,
W. H. MANNING,
Acting Governor.

Enclosure in No. 56.

ACTING ADMINISTRATOR, Fort Jameson, to GOVERNOR, Zomba.

YOUR EXCELLENCY, November 11, 1907.

WITH reference to His Majesty's Acting Commissioner's letter of 19th September last, I have the honour to forward the following report on the conditions under which natives of this territory engage for work in Southern Rhodesia, in accordance with the instructions contained in the Secretary of State's despatch of 16th August, 1907.

2. For many years natives living in the southern parts of North-Eastern Rhodesia have been in the habit of seeking work voluntarily in the mines of Southern Rhodesia, from which they were not far separated; and, as there seemed to be no reason for stopping this movement, the policy of the Administration was generally not to hamper the natives in seeking work where they wished, but rather to keep the roads open and safe for their passage to the mines. The emigrants knew the mines at which they wished to work and practically all the emigration was voluntary and without aid from any agents; travelling through the country was not a new experience to them, and, acting on their own initiative and being capable of looking after themselves where there were Magistrates and Native Commissioners to hear their complaints, they had no grievances on their return. As the rumours of the money to be earned at the mines spread further inland, natives with less knowledge of the country to be travelled through commenced to go south for work. The more ignorant of these suffered some hardships, both on the journey and at the mines, where the climate was colder, the housing less comfortable, and the food supplied to them not that to which they were accustomed.

3. So long as the emigration was quite voluntary and whilst the Administration was hardly in a position to properly control or register it, it was considered better to leave it unhampered by regulation, but intending emigrants, if they wished, could always obtain from the Native Commissioners of their Districts passes which would identify them.

4. When, however, the question of recruiting natives for work at the mines was considered, a distinction was made between the voluntary emigration of natives who were under no agreement and who were free to accept work where they wished, and the assisted emigration of those who, by persuasion of a recruiting agent, accepted an agreement for a long term to work at any mine to which they might be sent. The Native Labour Regulations of 1905 were made chiefly in order to ensure protection for natives recruited under such agreements.

5. Except in the cases of a few Europeans who were allowed to recruit labourers whom they accompanied to the mines, there was no organized recruiting for work in Southern Rhodesia until the Rhodesian Native Labour Bureau, under an agreement made with Mr. Justice Beaufort on behalf of this Administration, commenced work at the end of 1906. A copy of the conditions imposed by the

agreement is attached. By the agreement, only the Rhodesian Native Labour Bureau were allowed to recruit men for work south of the Zambesi, and all of North-Eastern Rhodesia was open to them; but, owing to the proximity of sleeping sickness on the North-West, and the discovery of an imported case of this disease in the Awemba country, all recruiting was disallowed in August, 1907, except in the East Luangwa District.

6. The present conditions under which labourers may be recruited and sent from North-Eastern Rhodesia to Southern Rhodesia, therefore, are:—

(1.) They may only be recruited by the Rhodesian Native Labour Bureau for the Southern Rhodesia mines and only in the East Luangwa District.

(2.) They are medically examined at Fort Jameson by the Medical Officer of the Administration, and only those passed by him are allowed to enter into an agreement.

(3.) The agreement is made before a Native Commissioner, who explains its meaning to the recruits.

(4.) Food is provided by the Rhodesian Native Labour Bureau at Fort Jameson and along the road to Hartley where the accepted men are all sent for distribution to the mines. The arrangements for supplying food are satisfactory, and the bulk of the recruited men should, and probably do, arrive at their destination fit for work.

7. Since the commencement of recruiting, the agent of the Rhodesian Native Labour Bureau has sent to Southern Rhodesia 1,659 men, of whom 975 come from the East Luangwa District, 65 from Abercorn, 117 from Chinsali, 70 from Mpika, 52 from Luena, 69 from Fife, 16 from Serenje, 52 from Kasama, 15 from Mporokoso, 187 from Mirongo, 15 from Kalungwise—all in North-Eastern Rhodesia; 10 from the Nyasaland Protectorate, and 16 whose homes are unknown.

These recruits have been sent to the mines under the agreed conditions which have been carried out quite well, but the system has not been in work long enough to give reliable information as to the death-rate or percentage of sickness. Up to October, 1907, 59 deaths have been recorded.

8. The independent emigrants in search of work consist of (1) natives from near the border of Southern Rhodesia and from the East Luangwa District of North-Eastern Rhodesia; (2) a large number from the Nyasaland Protectorate, many of whom do not pass through North-Eastern Rhodesia at all; (3) a smaller number from the Northern Districts of North-Eastern Rhodesia; (4) a few from German East Africa; and (5) natives who have come to enlist, have been rejected as unfit and warned not to proceed, but who rejoin their friends further along the road, and either enlist at Feira, where there is no Medical Officer, or obtain from the nearest Southern Rhodesia Pass Officer passes enabling them to seek for work. If a Medical Officer were stationed at Feira with power to turn back all those who were physically unfit, these would simply avoid Feira altogether and cross the Zambesi into Portuguese territory.

9. Efforts have been made to induce natives to go to Southern Rhodesia under agreement with the Rhodesian Native Labour Bureau (see annexed extract from Mr. Codrington's speech to natives assembled at Government House on 30th March, 1907), but those natives who have been down before, and those who go with them, do not avail themselves of the offer to be directed to work and to be found food on the journey. The reputations of the different mines for fair treatment vary considerably, and the men prefer to apply direct to the mines they know than to submit to an agreement for a long term, perhaps on a mine of which they have heard bad reports.

10. The Native Labour Regulations of 1905 placed no restrictions on independent emigration and, as the border can be crossed at any point, it is very difficult and almost impossible for this Adminstration alone to prevent it, so long as the inducement of work at the mines is held out to the emigrants, and so long as, when once across the border, they simply have to apply to the nearest Pass Officer for passes to seek for work.

If, however, it were made obligatory in North-Eastern Rhodesia for natives to obtain passes before leaving the territory, they would, unless provided with such passes, be prevented by Section 3 of the "Natives' Pass Ordinance, 1902," of Southern Rhodesia from entering that country, the inducement to go down without

passes would be removed and the whole of the independent emigration from North-Eastern Rhodesia could, with the aid of Southern Rhodesia, be completely controlled.

I have, &c.,
L. A. WALLACE,
Acting Administrator.

CONDITIONS OF RECRUITING AND SERVICE under Permit dated 12th July, 1906, granted to the Rhodesian Native Labour Bureau to recruit natives of North-Eastern Rhodesia for service in the Southern Rhodesia mines.

Conditions of Recruiting.

1. Any agent employed by the Bureau to recruit labour shall be approved by the Administrator.

2. Upon his arrival in any district in which he intends to recruit, every such agent shall forthwith notify the nearest Native Commissioner of such arrival and of the localities in which he desires to recruit.

3. Every such agent shall comply with all lawful and reasonable requirements of the Native Commissioner while employed in recruiting.

4. The length of service for which natives may be recruited shall not be less than six and shall not exceed twelve months.

5. The conditions of service shall be those endorsed on the certificate of agreement and signed by the Native Commissioner before whom the native contracts (annexure A).

6. Every native volunteering for service shall be brought before the Native Commissioner of the division in which he has been recruited, who shall thoroughly explain to him the nature of work required and the conditions of service endorsed upon the certificate of agreement. The native must then state in an audible tone that he understands the nature of work required and the conditions of service, and that he is prepared to proceed to Southern Rhodesia for service upon the said conditions. The certificate of agreement shall then be signed in triplicate by the Native Commissioner. The stamped copy shall be given to the agent of the Bureau, another copy shall be given the native, and the third shall be retained by the Native Commissioner of the division in which the men were engaged.

7. The Rhodesia Native Labour Bureau shall bear the cost of the agreement stamp.

8. Lists shall be prepared in duplicate of all natives in respect of whom certificates of agreement have been issued. One copy shall be forwarded to the Secretary for Native Affairs, the other copy shall accompany the natives to Southern Rhodesia and shall be checked with the natives by an officer of the Rhodesia Native Labour Bureau. A statement shall be rendered to the Secretary for Native Affairs of the numbers of natives that have arrived and the destination of those employed, and of the names of those who are missing and of those who are not finally taken on for work owing to ill-health or other cause, in respect of whom provision shall be made for the return journey to that part of North-Eastern Rhodesia in which they were engaged.

9. Every native shall be examined by a Medical Officer before he is allowed to leave North-Eastern Rhodesia at the cost of the Rhodesia Native Labour Bureau.

10. The natives shall be recruited for work on the Southern Rhodesia mines only.

11. In the event of the death of any native during his period of service, any balance of pay due to him shall be paid to the Secretary for Native Affairs for the benefit of his relatives. Any money in the possession of the deceased and the proceeds of the sale of his effects shall be transmitted in like manner.

12. All recruiting and emigration of labour in North-Eastern Rhodesia shall be subject to "The Native Labour Regulations, 1905," and to all rules made thereunder, and to such rules and regulations as may be in force in Southern Rhodesia from time to time relating to the immigration and employment of native labour.

13. The members of each tribe shall be accompanied by a capitao (appointed by the Native Commissioner of the division in which the natives are recruited), who shall receive suitable pay for looking after the natives and whose duty shall be to bring to the mine manager or other authority any complaints. Such capitaos shall not be required to perform manual labour; they may, however, be required to perform

such duties as are enumerated on their certificates of agreement (annexure B). The number of labourers entrusted to supervision of each capitao shall be at the discretion of the Native Commissioner. It is understood, however, that, as far as possible, there shall be one capitao to one hundred men.

14. The Bureau shall provide for the conveyance of the natives from their home to the mines and back again at the conclusion of their term of service. This provision shall include suitable railway accommodation where possible.

15. A native may either engage to serve as a surface labourer (in which case he shall not receive less than sixpence a day) or he may engage to serve as an underground labourer (in which case he shall be paid at the rate of not less than ninepence a day for day work and at the same rate for piece work if the task allotted for piece work be completed, but, if not completed, then the pay shall be in such proportion of ninepence as is equivalent to the proportion of the task completed). All underground labourers shall, however, be paid at the full rate of ninepence either for day or piece work for sixty days after they commence work in any event. If more than one task of piece work is completed by any native on the same day he shall be paid for the extra proportion completed. Any native who, having contracted to serve as a surface labourer is afterwards found fit and is employed with his consent as an underground labourer, shall receive the pay of an underground labourer. One-third of the minimum pay agreed upon shall be paid to him at the mines, and any extra pay or gratuity over and above what was agreed upon shall be paid to the native at the mines; the remaining two-thirds shall be remitted to the Secretary for Native Affairs to be paid to him on his return to North-Eastern Rhodesia.

16. The Secretary for Native Affairs will render to the Rhodesia Native Labour Bureau a statement of his requirements in respect of the deferred pay due to natives employed at the mines, and, in cases where required, of such compensation as he may give under Section 5 of the conditions of service, and his request for the necessary remittances under those heads shall be complied with. The value of any Hut Tax due by any native engaged shall be deposited with the Native Commissioner by the agent of the Rhodesia Native Labour Bureau at the time and place of engagement which will be taken into consideration by the Secretary for Native Affairs in stating his requirements as above. Such agent's order on the Rhodesia Native Labour Bureau for such amount will be accepted by the Native Commissioner.

17. Every native shall be offered repatriation, and shall receive food for the journey and a free passage over the railway to Broken Hill, Mwomboshi, or Hartley, when possible.

18. Any native being discharged as unfit for work under medical certificate before the completion of his contract shall be entitled to repatriation in the same manner as a native who has completed his contract. But should such native, after being certified by a Medical Officer as fit to travel, refuse to return to North-Eastern Rhodesia forthwith, the Bureau is to be under no further responsibility except to inform the Secretary for Native Affairs, and the native would be entitled to no compensation under Section 5 of the Conditions of Service.

19. A monthly statement shall be rendered of all casualties, and a death certificate or other official document shall be forwarded by the Bureau to the Secretary for Native Affairs.

20. A blanket shall be issued to each native engaged. Such issue shall take place at such a place as may be hereafter agreed upon. The cost of such blanket shall be deducted from the native's deferred pay.

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE.—A.

1. Employee undertakes to work for months at such mine in Southern Rhodesia as the Rhodesia Native Labour Bureau shall direct. The period of service shall date from the date of arrival at such mine.

2. Employee undertakes to work as a $\frac{\text{underground}}{\text{surface}}$ labourer in accordance with the terms as contained in Sections 15 and 16 of the Conditions of Recruiting, and explained to him by the Native Commissioner at the time of engagement. One-third of the pay as agreed upon shall be paid to him while serving at the mines

and two-thirds shall be remitted to the Secretary for Native Affairs, Fort Jameson, for payment to the employee on his return to North-Eastern Rhodesia after completion of service. Any extra pay or gratuity over and above what was agreed upon shall be paid to the native at the mines. In case of death any balance of pay due to employee shall be remitted to the Secretary for Native Affairs for payment to his next of kin.

3. Free rations of the standard quantity and quality usual in Southern Rhodesia shall be issued to employee during engagement and during the journey to the mines and back to that part of North-Eastern Rhodesia in which he was engaged.

4. Employee shall be entitled to free medical attendance and hospital accommodation.

5. The passage of employee and expenses connected therewith by rail and road to the mines and back to that part of North-Eastern Rhodesia in which he was engaged shall be arranged by the Rhodesia Native Labour Bureau. In case employee is invalided on medical certificate before expiration of engagement, the Bureau also undertakes to provide a return passage free of charge. If employee is invalided on medical certificate before he has been able to earn money he shall be entitled to such compensation (not exceeding 10s.) for the trouble he has been put to as to the Secretary for Native Affairs shall seem fit, provided only he return to Fort Jameson as soon as he is able.

6. Proper quarters shall be provided for the natives engaged to work in the mines.

7. A blanket shall be issued to each native recruited. The cost of such blanket shall be deducted from the native's deferred wages.

8. One day in seven shall be a holiday except in the case of urgent necessity.

9. Complaints may be made to the mine manager or other authority through the capitao attached to each tribe of labourers from North-Eastern Rhodesia.

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE.—B. CAPITAOS.

1. Employee undertakes to work for months as capitao at such mine in Southern Rhodesia as the Rhodesia Native Labour Bureau shall direct. Employee shall not be required to perform manual labour, but his duties are liable to be as follows:—

Supervising and turning out the natives under his charge, overlooking the sweeping of the compound, examining and bringing up sick natives for medical inspection, tracing loafers and such other similar duties as may be assigned to him by the Compound Manager of the Mine.

2. The pay of such capitao shall be at the rate of 25s. per calendar month. The value of any Hut Tax or Hut Taxes which may be due by him at time of engagement shall be advanced to him in accordance with Section 16 of the Conditions of Recruiting. One-third of the pay earned by the employee shall be paid direct to him while serving at the mines, and two-thirds shall be remitted to the Secretary for Native Affairs, Fort Jameson, for payment to the employee on his return to North-Eastern Rhodesia after completion of service. In case of death any balance of pay due to employee shall be remitted to the Secretary for Native Affairs for payment to his next-of-kin.

3. Free rations of the standard quantity and quality usual in Southern Rhodesia shall be issued to employee during engagement and during the journey to the mines and back to that part of North-Eastern Rhodesia in which he was engaged.

4. Employee shall be entitled to free medical attendance and hospital accommodation, and no deduction shall be made from his monthly pay during sickness.

5. The passage of employee and all expenses connected therewith by rail to the mines and back to that part of North-Eastern Rhodesia in which he was engaged shall be arranged by the Rhodesia Native Labour Bureau. In case employee is invalided on medical certificate before expiration of engagement, the Bureau also undertakes to provide a return passage free of charge. If employee is invalided on medical certificate before he has been able to earn money, he shall be entitled to such compensation (not exceeding 10s.) for the trouble he has been put to as to the Secretary for Native Affairs shall seem fit, provided only he return to Fort Jameson as soon as he is able.

6. Proper quarters shall be assigned to him.

7. A blanket shall be issued to each capitao engaged if he requires it. The cost of such blanket shall be deducted from his deferred wages.

8. One day in seven shall be a holiday except in the case of urgent necessity.

Department of Native Affairs,
Fort Jameson,
July 12, 1906.

EXTRACT from the Administrator's speech to the assembled natives at the indaba held at Government House, Fort Jameson, on 30th March, 1907.

"You all understand now that much money can be earned by the young men if they go to Southern Rhodesia. You have seen some of the men come back from Johannesburg; how they get some of their money paid them at the Boma. It is much better to be written on at the Boma when you go to work at the mines and to get some of your pay on your return to Fort Jameson. If you get all your pay down there you lose it, or you spend it foolishly, or it is stolen on the journey home,, and you come back to your village with nothing. But if you are signed on at the Boma, then the Boma sees that you get your proper pay. It is also good for you to be passed by the doctor before you go, because, if the doctor says that a man is not strong enough or he has a disease, that man is likely to die, especially if he has a weak chest, as it is colder in Southern Rhodesia than here. It is also not good to go down to Southern Rhodesia without the Boma knowing it, because if a man dies his relations won't hear of it nor will they get any pay that he has earned."

No. 57.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE to THE GOVERNOR OF THE TRANSVAAL.

MY LORD, Downing Street, 15 January, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 9th December, 1907,* on the subject of the recruiting of native labour for the mines from the Nyasaland Protectorate and North-Eastern Rhodesia.

Before arriving at a definite decision in the matter, I think it is desirable that I should await the reply to my despatch of the 6th of December,† together with the further communication promised by your Ministers in regard to the mortality among the natives on the Premier Mine.

It will, however, be impossible for me to authorise the resumption of recruiting unless there are strong grounds for believing that the death-rate can be very substantially and permanently reduced.

I have, &c.,
ELGIN.

No. 58.

SIR A. SHARPE to COLONIAL OFFICE.

(Received January 17, 1908.)

SIR, Broadlands, Ambleside, 16th January, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th instant,‡ transmitting to me, for my information, a copy of a despatch§ received from Sir W. H. Manning (dated November 20th) on the subject of the exodus of native workers from Nyasaland to Southern Rhodesia.

I have been for some time past—as stated in my letter to you of December 13th last‖—in communication with Mr. Codrington, and also with the British South Africa Chartered Company, on the Nyasaland labour question in so far as it affects Rhodesia.

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* No. 54. † No. 49. ‡ Not printed. § No. 56. ‖ No. 53.

I had a meeting with the Company's Directors and Mr. Codrington on the 7th of this month, and the conditions detailed in my letter of December the 13th were accepted, with the following modifications, which I agreed to:—

Clause (6).—The Directors express their willingness that the Rhodesian Government should entirely control "alien" labour, but state that they are unable to give a definite consent to the condition without the approval of Sir W. Milton; they also state that they presume Lord Selborne's consent would be required.

Clause (7).—It is agreed that the blankets supplied to immigrants shall be eventually paid for out of their wages.

The Directors then undertook to communicate with Sir W. Milton with a view to taking steps in Southern Rhodesia for carrying out the proposed arrangement.

A few days ago I received a letter from the Chartered Company sending me copies of telegrams which had passed between London and Salisbury. These I forwarded to the Colonial Office yesterday* together with my reply. From Sir W. Milton's telegram I gather that he does not altogether understand the situation, and is under the impression that the Government of Nyasaland is anxious to send labourers down to Southern Rhodesia; the actual position being, as you are aware, that the present conditions under which native workers find their way to Southern Rhodesia are so very unsatisfactory that either some reasonable system must be organized, or else the question must be considered as to whether voluntary emigration from Nyasaland should not be discouraged or stopped.

The Chartered Company ask that meantime 1,000 men may be recruited from Nyasaland as an "experiment." I see no objection to 1,000 men being allowed to go down at once on the terms arranged and stated by me, pending the settlement of the final question as to how "alien" labour is to be dealt with in future in Southern Rhodesia.

There is one point which I feel strongly it is most desirable that if possible the Home Government should insist on: The placing of all matters concerning "alien" labour in Southern Rhodesia *under Government control.* I believe I am right in saying that in all our Colonies importing "foreign" labour (coloured) this course has been taken. Until this is done it is practically impossible to regulate satisfactorily for Northern natives seeking work in Southern Rhodesia. Mr. Codrington is, I am glad to say, entirely of this opinion; and paragraph 3 of the despatch from the Acting Governor of Nyasaland of the 20th of November† emphasises the same point. Sir W. Manning states: "The only way to reduce the high mortality is to make it a punishable offence in Southern Rhodesia to engage natives from Nyasaland and North-Eastern Rhodesia unless they are in possession of a pass," &c., &c. It would be difficult in practice to carry out this suggestion; but the placing of all alien labour under a Southern Rhodesian Government Department would at once get over any difficulties as it would then be illegal for anyone to employ alien labour except through that Department.

I am still awaiting from the Chartered Company the result of their final telegraphic communications to Sir W. Milton, and as soon as I am in a position to propose some final and definite settlement of this question of the regulation of Nyasaland labour going to Southern Rhodesia, will again write on the subject.

I have, &c.,
ALFRED SHARPE.

No. 59.

SIR A. SHARPE to COLONIAL OFFICE.

(Received 29th January, 1908.)

SIR, Halton Hall, Lancaster, 28th January, 1908.

WITH reference to previous correspondence on the question of the exodus of Nyasaland natives to Southern Rhodesia in search of work, I now have the honour to transmit to you a letter which I have received from the British South Africa Chartered Company (written by Mr. Codrington).

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* Not printed. † No. 56.

It will be seen that the Company are ready to carry out the conditions which I have detailed in previous letters, in addition to which I have told Mr. Codrington that with respect to labourers going to Southern Rhodesia, as in the case also of labour sent to the Transvaal, the year's tax of each man (6s.) will require to be paid on recruitment, and will be eventually deducted from wages.

I would now suggest that the proposed experiment be carried out, by the engagement of one thousand men, on the conditions I have agreed to, and that a despatch be addressed to the Acting Governor of Nyasaland instructing him to co-operate with the Chartered Company's Acting Administrator of North-Eastern Rhodesia with this object.

I have, &c.,
ALFRED SHARPE.

Enclosure in No. 59.

Mr. CODRINGTON to Sir A. SHARPE.

Queen Anne's Mansions, S.W.,
London, 26th January, 1908.

MY DEAR SIR ALFRED,

I HAVE seen your reply to Brodie about Nyasaland labour.

The cablegrams to and from Sir William Milton crossed, but there is no doubt that he now understands the exact position. At any rate it is understood by the Board, and Sir William Milton has been informed by letter.

It is clearly understood that it is absolutely necessary to regulate the existing traffic, in the interests of Rhodesia, of Nyasaland and of the natives; that the death-rate and general wastage of men going south must be substantially reduced by improved organisation of food supplies and passage arrangements on the way down and back again, and improved conditions of employment; that there is a danger, remote but necessary to guard against, of the introduction of sleeping sickness by unregulated immigration to Southern Rhodesia; that in your opinion and in mine and in that of the Directors who have recently returned from Rhodesia, it is essential that all details connected with the employment of northern labour should be dealt with directly by the Southern Rhodesia Government and not by any Labour Bureau. The Board, having considered these points, passed a special resolution, and directed Sir William Milton by cable to approach the High Commissioner with a view to the immediate establishment of the necessary Government organisation to deal with the matter. It is necessary to consult the High Commissioner as there is an old Colonial Office despatch* (Sir Richard Martin on "forced labour") instructing the Company that their Administrative Officers are not to interfere in any way in the recruiting and distribution of labour. This order Sir William Milton will seek to get modified as far as "alien labour" is concerned.

I think, therefore, you will agree that Sir William Milton understands that the conditions we agreed to are accepted by the Board, and that he will himself concur, and that all that is now required is the approval of the High Commissioner and the new arrangements can be carried out. Moreover, I shall see Sir William Milton on my return to Rhodesia and can explain and discuss the matter further with him if he wishes.

As regards the "experimental" sending of a thousand men the idea is that if you accept the Company's assurance that they are in entire agreement with you as regards the necessity of regulating the supply of Nyasaland labour, and that they are taking steps to obtain the High Commissioner's concurrence in the immediate establishment of a Southern Rhodesia Government organisation to control and look after all details connected with the employment of "alien labour," you should at once authorise the engagement, on the lines indicated by you and agreed to by the Company and Sir William Milton, of a thousand natives, in order that it may be seen by a limited experiment, whether or not the new system can be made workable and acceptable to the employers of labour in Southern Rhodesia. If this first experiment succeeds everybody will be anxious to go on, but in the beginning the Company wish to go slowly, to be certain that they can secure a satisfactory disposition of the labour and the most favourable conditions for success.

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* See [C. 8547] and page 83 of [Cd. 1200] July, 1902.

As you know, I share with you an anxiety to get these new and improved arrangements established, as I am not at all satisfied with the present system of recruiting and dealing with native labour from my own country, and unless something of the sort is done, I shall have to make representations to the Company which can only result in the prohibition of recruiting in the northern territories.

Yours, &c.,
ROBERT CODRINGTON.

Sir Alfred Sharpe, K.C.M.G., C.B.,
Broadlands,
Ambleside.

P.S.—Since I wrote this a cablegram has been received from Milton saying that the "High Commissioner fully approves establishment Government Labour Bureau."

R. C.

No. 60.

THE GOVERNOR OF THE TRANSVAAL to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

(Received 8th February, 1908.)

[*Answered by No.* 65.]

Governor's Office,
Johannesburg, 20th January, 1908.

MY LORD,

WITH reference to your despatch of the 6th December and my despatch of the 9th idem,* I have the honour to enclose, for your information, copies of Minutes from Ministers on the subject of the mortality amongst native labourers on the Premier Diamond Mine.

I have, &c.,
SELBORNE,
Governor.

Enclosure 1 in No. 60.

MINISTERS to GOVERNOR.

(Minute No. 21.)

Prime Minister's Office,
Pretoria, 13th January, 1908.

Ministers have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the Governor's Minute, No. 50/5/07, of the 27th December, 1907, with a copy of the Secretary of State's despatch, dated the 6th December, relative to the death-rate among Nyasaland Protectorate natives employed on the Premier Mine, which question has already been dealt with in a general way in the Medical Report which accompanies a separate Minute from Ministers of this date.

LOUIS BOTHA.

Enclosure 2 in No. 60.

MINISTERS to GOVERNOR.

(Minute No. 22.)

Prime Minister's Office,
Pretoria, 13th January, 1908.

In connection with their Minute, No. 650, of the 29th November last, Ministers have now the honour to transmit to His Excellency the Governor a copy of the report of the Medical Board appointed to enquire into the causes of the high rate of mortality amongst native labourers employed on the Premier Diamond Mine, and to state that steps are at once being taken to carry out the recommendations of the Board as far as possible.

LOUIS BOTHA.

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* Nos. 49 and 54.

SIR, Johannesburg, 24th December, 1907.

IN reply to your letter of the 2nd ultimo, we have the honour to send you a report of our joint investigations concerning the mortality occurring among British Basutos and other natives on the Premier Mine.

We have paid visits to the Mine on several occasions and have made as full enquiries as possible.

There is no doubt that the mortality during the year ended June, 1907, amongst British Basutos was excessive.

The figure is 52·8 per 1,000 per annum on the Premier Mine, and 20·3 amongst British Basutos on other mines in the Transvaal.

The death-rate calculated on all the natives on the Premier Mine, excluding British Basutos, gives a mortality of 29·3 per 1,000, which, considering the source of the native labour supply, is, in our opinion, a high one.

The death-rate of the various tribes for the 12 months ended June, 1907, was as follows:—

British Basutos	52·8	per 1,000 per annum.
British Central Africa ...	106·6	„ „
East Coast natives, south of latitude 22° ...	42·35	„ „
Cape Colony Boys ...	65·7	„ „
Natal and Zululand ...	10·9	„ „
Transvaal Basutos ...	21·5	„ „

The death-rate for East Coast natives and Transvaal Basutos for the same period on the gold mines was 33·1 per 1,000 for East Coast natives and 23·6 for Transvaal Basutos. A death-rate, therefore, of 42·35 amongst East Coast natives is almost as startling as that of 52·8 among the British Basutos.

It is true the death-rate among Transvaal Basutos on the Premier is 2·1 per 1,000 lower than that on the gold mines, but we believe we are correct in saying that the majority of these are Sekukuni's people, a better class than the ordinary Transvaal native. A death-rate of 21·5 among them is not a low one.

In view of these figures we think we are justified in coming to the following conclusions:—

(1.) The death-rate generally among all races of native labourers employed on the Premier Diamond Mine is higher than is usual on the mines in this country.

(2.) The mortality among the British Basutos is, for some reason, in a greater excess than among the other tribes. Further, that a larger proportion of them are admitted to hospital with respiratory diseases, including pneumonia, than others, as proved by the following table:—

Admission to hospital for all respiratory diseases.

Transvaal Basutos ...	238	per 1,000 per annum.
East Coast natives ...	301·9	„ „
British Basutos	324·6	„ „

As regards the first conclusion, we believe, as a result of our investigation, that the increase in the general mortality on the Premier is the result of several factors, of which we would draw your attention to the following:—

(1.) *Overcrowding in the compound.*

That overcrowding has existed is admitted.

Experience teaches us that overcrowding is frequently accompanied by pneumonia in epidemic form, and it has been noted that, as this evil is abated, the number of cases of pneumonia diminishes.

(2.) *Sleeping accommodation.*

At present numbers of natives are sleeping on cement floors; none of them have bunks.

This material is a conductor of heat, consequently the native lying on it is continuously giving up warmth to the floor.

This subject might be discussed in a lengthy manner from several aspects. The increased dangers from infected dust to persons lying on the floor level might be gone into; still more extensively might the matter be discussed thermally, considering the range of temperatures between the cement floor, the native's body, and the surrounding atmosphere. We think this unnecessary.

(3.) *Length of time on shift.*

The native on the Premier Mine at present works a twelve hours' shift with an interval of one hour. This is excessive. No driver with any respect for his animals would work mules or horses for such periods. It must be remembered that animals have their food brought to them after their work, while the unfortunate native has, in this case, to cook his own food or, at any rate, to fetch it, and he has to look after his own clothes.

If a boy has to work from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. he has not much time to attend to himself, especially in the winter months, and he certainly has a poor chance of drying wet clothes, &c.

(4.) *Absence of heating apparatus in living room.*

The lack of stoves in the sleeping-rooms must at times be felt; a boy coming in from the mine with wet clothing wants some place to dry them, though, of course, we recognise that the ideal plan would be for him to make use of a common drying chamber for his clothing, but we know that such an arrangement is impossible owing to the natives' prejudices.

It must also be remembered that the rapidity with which a native radiates his heat causes him to require a warmer temperature than an ordinary European.

These four factors, if rectified, would, we believe, render an otherwise excellent native compound as up-to-date as existing circumstances admit of.

There are probably several factors which have caused a still higher mortality among British Basutos than other races.

(1.) We learn that the average period of service of this class of labour is a very short one, only about 2½ months. This means, therefore, that there is a constant stream of absolutely raw natives of this tribe on the Mine, unaccustomed to the work and mode of life, who never stay long enough to become really acclimatised to the place, and as we know that new boys are more prone to disease than seasoned hands, the factor probably accounts to some extent for the extra death-rate and increase in hospital admissions among them.

(2.) We believe another important reason is the large increase in numbers amongst the British Basutos without corresponding compound accommodation. The tendency of various tribes to keep to their own quarters necessarily meant that the British Basuto rooms have been more seriously overcrowded than those of other tribes. Take, for example, the number of East Coast boys and British Basutos for comparison.

The East Coast native figures ranged between 1,200 and 1,400 during the period under enquiry, beginning with 1,446 and finishing with 1,287; whereas the British Basutos begin the period with 1,007 and finish with 3,017.

On the Premier Mine the natives feed themselves, and we know the British Basuto in other places has shown himself a somewhat saving individual. Give a Basuto one pound and one shilling for a week's pay, he is exceedingly chary of breaking the one pound and will try and live for the seven days on the one shilling. This he succeeds in doing by starving himself and by begging food from his less thrifty neighbours, the result being that though he may appear fat he is imperfectly nourished in some respects, and, therefore, more susceptible to disease, and on having contracted it, has less power of resistance. This is borne out when one remembers the poor chance a scurvy patient has of recovering when once he has contracted pneumonia.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

We recommend that—

(1) Overcrowding on the Premier Mine should not be allowed under any circumstances.
(2) The twelve-hour shift should be reduced.
(3) Adequate heating apparatus, preferably hot-water pipes, should be supplied to the compound rooms before the next winter.

(4) The Compound Manager be asked if it is feasible to make a small reduction from the native wage to cover the cost of a daily supply of a ration of cooked winnowed mealie meal, mixed with the ordinary proportion of ground-nut sauce.

We believe that if these recommendations are carried out, the death-rate on the Mine will be materially decreased. At the same time the experience on other diamond mines has taught us that there is some factor at present not understood which causes a somewhat higher death-rate than one is justified in expecting.

Finally, we must express our thanks to the Medical Officers of the Premier Mine, Dr. Rigby and Dr. Lister, and the Compound Manager, Mr. Hall, for the assistance rendered us in making the investigations.

CHARLES LANE SANSOM.
G. A. TURNER.

The Minister for Native Affairs,
Pretoria,

APPENDIX "A."

On the question of the necessity of bunks in the compound, Dr. Sansom and myself are not at one.

There can be no doubt in my mind that to allow a native, who radiates his heat more rapidly than a white man, to sleep on a stone floor must lead to trouble. To appeal to a layman's mind I suggest that the consideration of the two following questions will be conclusive:—

(1) Would any man who was sleeping on the veldt choose a smooth rock to spread his blankets on? The very inexperienced person might do so once; he would certainly never do it a second time.

(2) What is the experience of the man with a granolithic floor in his office? Every one knows that, even when he is wearing thick boots, his feet become painfully cold unless he has a heavy mat under them.

It must be remembered that the native on his first arrival on the Mine has not a plethora of blankets with him—probably two cotton ones at most. A boy lying on the cold floors, protected only by these must be chilled even in summer months. During the winter the effect must be painful and the result disastrous. I, therefore, strongly recommend that a double tier of bunks be erected in the sleeping-rooms as soon as possible.

G. A. TURNER.

APPENDIX "B."

I am not convinced of the absolute necessity of wooden bunks. Natives were at one time allowed to erect shelves of their own, and to obviate this unsatisfactory procedure I insisted on proper movable bunks being provided.

Having noted the excellent health of prisoners who sleep on concrete floors I am not prepared to argue that the absence of wooden bunks causes a large amount of bad health.

The issue of felt mats, such as are used in prisons, would prevent much of the loss of heat referred to above.

CHARLES LANE SANSOM.

No. 61.

THE ACTING GOVERNOR OF THE NYASALAND PROTECTORATE to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

(Received 22 February, 1908.)

Government House, Zomba,
Nyasaland Protectorate, 17th January, 1908.

MY LORD,

IN continuation of my despatch dated the 15th of November, 1907,*

* No. 55.

I have the honour to forward, for Your Lordship's perusal, a copy of a communication received by me from Mr. Knipe, the representative of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association in Central East Africa.

1. As Your Lordship will observe, Mr. Knipe asks that a "modus operandi" should be agreed upon by this Government and the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association with reference to the question of native labour for the Rand mines.

Mr. Knipe sketches the history of the early immigration to the Rand of labourers in search of work.

He states that three years ago statistics as to 6,000 men are available as to the number who proceeded to South Africa in search of work, and that this number only represented one-third of the actual number.

That at the present moment the same state of affairs exists but on a much more extensive scale.

Later on in his letter Mr. Knipe estimates again that the number who left for work in South Africa in 1907, with or without passes, is at the lowest computation 18,000.

He points out that of these 18,000 me we have no information whatever as to how they reached their destination, except that it is probable they underwent great hardship in the endeavour, or as to how or where they are employed.

These statements bear out those made in my despatch of 15th November, 1907.*

2. Mr. Knipe makes serious statements as to the state of affairs in Southern Rhodesia as regards the employment of labour from this Protectorate. I have no means of corroborating this indictment, but I shall refer to this later in the considerations which I propose to put forward concerning the employment of labour in South Africa generally.

3. I have already, in my above-quoted despatch, called attention to the great popularity that labour in the Rand mines enjoys, and I have had ample means of corroborating this evidence in my conversation with many chiefs who have been to see me since I arrived in the Protectorate.

4. Mr. Knipe's statement that the cessation of recruiting for the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association has not had any appreciable effect on the numbers who proceeded south corroborates what I have already brought forward. The exodus has been the same under conditions of hardship and want of any form of control either as to medical fitness or as to proper pay and treatment.

5. The Witwatersrand Native Labour Association now propose, as Mr. Knipe states, to recruit labour not in British territory but outside that territory, but close to its borders. All that he iterates is what will occur, and this Government is powerless to prevent it.

The native of Nyasaland will have no difficulty in passing himself off as a Portuguese subject, and it must be borne in mind that the Portuguese border is practically unadministered, and therefore the identification of natives who pass themselves off as natives of Portuguese territory is improbable. Should this system be put into force every vestige of control we might retain over the native proceeding south in search of labour is to all purposes lost; he becomes for the time being a Portuguese subject.

6. Mr. Knipe then puts forward his proposals for the "modus operandi."

From the perusal of the proposals put forward it is evident that the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association do not come forward as recruiters of labour, but to assist those who are provided by this Government with passes to reach their destination, and in return for this assistance the native is to work under the auspices of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association.

On behalf of the native they promise also to:—

(1) Pay the hut tax for the current year and for any year that the native may be working in the mines on the Rand.
(2) To remit sums due to heirs of deceased natives who die on the Rand.
(3) To pay the native as to one-third of his pay on the Rand and two-thirds in this Protectorate, in addition to food, clothing, housing, and proper supervision while in South Africa.

7. In commenting upon these terms the point must not be overlooked that the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association make no reference as to the conditions of work, the provision as to underground labour in the mines being ignored.

* No. 55.

But as I have pointed out in my despatch of 15th of November, 1907,* this prohibition is ignored at the present, and to impose the condition in consideration of the proposals now put forward would wreck any attempt at formulating a "modus operandi," and the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association would have recourse to the scheme of recruitment outside British territory, and it must be remembered that not only the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association but any other agency would have no difficulty in recruiting labour in Portuguese territory from among pseudo Portuguese subjects.

8. I think it is my duty to put the matter quite clearly. The situation as now developed means either the acceptance of the proposals of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association and the control of our surplus labour supply, or the non-acceptance of those proposals and the loss of all control, as the native of this Protectorate has made up his mind to go to the mines in South Africa, and I see no means of preventing him.

9. I must refer back again to the statements made by Mr. Knipe as to the conditions under which the native of Nyasaland works in Southern Rhodesia. We have from two sources, which are unimpeachable, the evidence as to the conditions of labour in the Rand, viz., the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association's reports and the evidence of the native who has returned from work on the Rand. Taking the evidence of the latter—I have never had one case in which I have questioned returned labourers where any complaints have been made; one and all have been enthusiastic as to their treatment, pay, and, above all, their food. I consider that if the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association undertake on behalf of the native that is assisted to the Rand to see that he is properly treated, housed, fed, and paid, a similar undertaking should be exacted and enforced on behalf of the native whom the Rhodesia Labour Bureau assist down to Southern Rhodesia, and that unless some such guarantee is forthcoming the agency of the Southern Rhodesia Labour Bureau should not be permitted to assist natives to the mines in Southern Rhodesia. In other words, if the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association can promise and undertake certain conditions on behalf of the natives of this Protectorate, that they assist to find labour in the Rand exactly similar conditions should be laid upon any other agency. In the event of this proviso being enforced, I see no necessity to inquire into what has taken place in Southern Rhodesia, but to guarantee that such a state of affairs is impossible in the future, though it may have been in the past.

10. I should state that it will be evident that the "modus operandi" as now proposed on behalf of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association is neither more nor less than that which I outlined in my despatch referred to, and that the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association become the means of forwarding natives to the mines, instead of this Government undertaking this duty and calling upon employers to pay the cost of each native employed. The Witwatersrand Native Labour Association relieves this Government of the cost, and recoups themselves from the employer.

11. I have replied to Mr. Knipe that I have laid his letter before Your Lordship with my remarks, and that I will ask Your Lordship to reply by telegram to this despatch in order that, if the proposals of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association are approved of, the present very unsatisfactory position of affairs may be terminated at once.

12. I attach, for Your Lordship's information, a copy of the translation of a letter from the Governor of the Mozambique Company, Beira, in which the exodus of Nyasaland natives to South Africa in search of work is referred to as being "more or less an emigration," so large is the number of Protectorate natives applying to the Company's officials for passes when *en route* for South Africa.

I have, &c.,
W. H. MANNING,
Acting Governor.

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* No. 55.

Enclosure 1 in No. 61.

Mr. C. KNIPE, District Manager, Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, Limited, to the ACTING GOVERNOR, Zomba, Nyasaland.

SIR, 11 January, 1908.

As representative of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association in Central East Africa, I feel that the time has come for me to put before Your Excellency as clearly and concisely as I can the situation as it is at present with reference to our operations in this part of Africa, events which I am convinced will follow in natural sequence, and finally to lay before you proposals which I trust will lead to the proper conduct and control of the very large voluntary exodus of natives from this Protectorate who go in an irresponsible manner in search of work in places south of the Zambesi.

In order that Your Excellency may understand how matters stand, I think it best for me to endeavour to show you how this emigration started, to what an extent it has grown, and how it has become most essential that some *modus operandi* should be agreed upon between the Government of the Nyasaland Protectorate and the Witwatersrand Mines in the Transvaal.

It is many years now since the natives of this Protectorate discovered of their own accord that south of the Zambesi there was a more remunerative market for their labour than in their own territory, and I think I am right in saying that the Atonga tribe, who inhabit the West Nyasa district, and have the roving spirit strongly developed, were the first to push across the Zambesi to the mining fields of Southern Rhodesia. In due course these pioneers returned to their homes, and the sight of so much comparative wealth which they brought back induced many of their friends to follow their example. As time went on the example set by the Atonga was followed by the neighbouring tribes, so that even before the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association started organised operations in the Protectorate I am in a position to know that there were many thousands of natives annually leaving the country. There is no doubt that in the beginning the majority of these emigrants worked in the Rhodesian mines, but as time went on the pioneer Atonga discovered that there was even a better market for their labour on the Rand, and accordingly they pushed on to the Transvaal, and were again followed by the other tribes. There is no possible doubt that this exodus has increased every year, and in proof of this I would mention that three years ago no less than 6,000 (six thousand) Nyasaland natives were registered at Feira as having crossed the Zambesi to seek work south. I am confident that this represented only about a third of the actual number that really found their way down. It must be understood that the whole of this large number went down in a haphazard, irresponsible manner, getting food and shelter as best they could. It is well known that many died of actual starvation *en route*, while many others were practically enslaved by the Mashonas, being compelled by want and privation to hoe gardens for an indefinite time, receiving as payment just sufficient food to keep them alive. In addition to this it must be remembered that these natives left their districts spontaneously. Nobody knew where they were going to, whether they ever reached their destination, by whom they were employed, whether they received proper payment, or what became of them. And this is what is going on at the present time on an even more extensive scale. It is beyond contention that the idea of going to South Africa in search of work is widespread throughout the Protectorate, and that the objective is not, as in the beginning, the Rhodesian mines, but the Rand. The reason is obvious. In the first place wages are higher on the Rand; but I do not consider this to be real cause of the unpopularity of the Rhodesian mines. During my recent visit to Salisbury I made it my business to find out why natives would not go to these mines, and what was the cause of their extreme shortage of labour. The solution was not hard to arrive at. In the first place there is no efficient Government supervision of the employers of labour, but, at the same time grave scandals have been exposed, hushed up, and nothing done to bring the fault home to the offenders. I found that the natives were improperly housed amid unsanitary conditions, scantily fed, and questionable methods employed in paying their wages. By the continuance of this short-sighted policy for many years it has naturally come about that Rhodesia is the last place our natives wish to go to. At the same time so strong is their determination to get to the Rand that many of them accept temporary employment in order to earn enough money to pay their way later on to the Rand. It is an

incontestable fact that the nature of the work on the Rand is thoroughly well known to all natives throughout Nyasaland, and that the idea of going there is becoming very popular among them. During the four years that my Association has been allowed to operate in the Protectorate, we have sent down and repatriated some 5,000 (five thousand) men. I may safely say that the money and reports which these natives alone brought back apart from the large number who have gone on their own intitative, have caused a widespread determination among the natives of Nyasaland to proceed by some means to the goldfields of the Witwatersrand. In proof of this I will mention my own experience. As Your Excellency is well aware my Association was not able to operate in Nyasaland during 1907, but this in no way stopped the flow of labour to the Rand. During the end of February, 1907, my late agent at Fort Jameson began to receive daily applications from gangs of Protectorate natives, who came to him asking to be assisted to the Rand. In no week was the number of these applications under one hundred, and sometimes the week's total touched two hundred. This went on for over four months. To every gang we gave the same explanation. They were told that we were unable to offer them any assistance then, but if they liked to return to their villages we might be able to do somethings for them in July. The result was as follows: A few decided to return to their villages and wait. Others merely walked across the road and engaged themselves with the agent of the Rhodesian Native Labour Bureau, telling myself and my agent that they were only doing this to earn enough money to take them to the Rand. The remainder went to the Rand there and then, finding their way down as best they could. None of these men had passes to leave the Protectorate. In addition to this, I know that other gangs, hearing that we could not assist them, never came near us at all, but cut straight across country to Salisbury, and so on to Johannesburg. I know that there was no great difficulty about this, as in Salisbury at that time natives were being surreptitiously engaged and forwarded to the Rand to mineowners outside the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association. I was at this time also receiving reports from my agents who had formerly been engaged in the Protectorate. These men wrote that their houses were being practically beseiged by Nyasaland natives requesting to be sent down to the Rand, and when they finally discovered we could do nothing for them, I am quite sure that many of them took the matter into their own hands and went. I am really almost afraid to give my estimate of the number of natives that left the Protectorate last year, because, in addition to the large number that went to the Rand I found during my recent visit to Salisbury that the whole of the town was over-run by Nyasaland natives. In the public offices, in the shops, in the factories, in private houses and hotels the lesser services were invariably performed by these natives. The common native language in the streets was Chinyanja.

My lowest estimate of the number of natives who left the Protectorate in 1907, with or without passes (the majority without), is 18,000 (eighteen thousand).

And now, Sir, I come to the real crux and difficulty of the situation, and in the following lines I trust Your Excellency will not think that I am endeavouring to force the hand of Government, as I wish, above all things, to avoid giving this impression. The matter, however, must be stated plainly and openly so that there can be no misconception, and I would ask Your Excellency to believe that it is my earnest desire to clear the way for the future, and to do away with any risk of incurring Government displeasure.

During the latter part of 1907 my Association completed arrangements with the Portuguese Government whereby we are operating in Portuguese territory lying all along the north-western boundary of the Protectorate. We have also, on the east side of the Protectorate, come to terms with the Campanhia do Nyasa, and it is more than likely that we shall extend our operations round to Lomweland and Anguruland. It is not difficult to see what is bound to happen in the future. Even already it is beginning. I think there is no shadow of doubt that there are many natives in the Nyasaland Protectorate who will go to the Rand, and that any scheme for patrolling the borders to prevent them doing so is impracticable. As soon as we get our Portuguese routes open and operations systematised I am quite convinced that the Nyasaland natives will swarm over the borders and request to be engaged. What are we to do? If the Government forbid us to take Nyasaland men I can guarantee that it will not be done if we know they are Nyasaland natives, but with the best intentions I do not see how we can avoid it. Our agents, no doubt, will be able to find out about the first few gangs, but as soon as assistance is refused them,

and it becomes common knowledge that no Nyasaland natives will be taken, the original gangs will simply go round the corner and present themselves as Portuguese natives, while the gangs following after will arrive with fictitious names and Portuguese villages already prepared. Again, what is to prevent unscrupulous persons hovering on the boundary and writing on the men as soon as they cross. I can foresee many complications unless some definite arrangement is arrived at. I will now proceed to lay before Your Excellency my proposals whereby I hope to find the solution of this complicated situation. I trust that in the foregoing pages I have convinced Your Excellency that at the present time there are thousands of natives annually emigrating south of the Zambesi from this Protectorate. It is not known where they go to; it is not known who employs them, how they are treated, or whether they get paid. We do know that service in the Rhodesian mines is most unpopular, for reasons which I have given, and we do know that Rhodesia will spare no effort to get these natives. From all these emigrants the Protectorate derives no benefit. Most of them probably evade the hut tax, thus even causing a loss of revenue. Now the proposal which I wish to lay before Your Excellency is this:

That as District Manager of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association I may be allowed to take advantage of the existing Pass Law in the Protectorate. I ask to be allowed to have approved representatives in various parts of the Protectorate to whom all Nyasaland natives who have obtained passes to search for work outside the Protectorate may go, and be assisted to their stated destination.

If this is granted we will undertake and guarantee that:—

1. Every native who comes to our representative with a pass and expresses a wish to proceed to the Rand for work in the mines will be medically examined to ascertain if he is physically fit for such work.
2. The Witwatersrand Native Labour Association will be responsible for the hut tax of the current year of every native who proceeds to the Rand under its auspices.
3. The hut tax of every such native will be remitted as it falls due by the Association during such time as the native may be working on the Rand.
4. That no Nyasaland native will receive any assistance whatever unless he is provided with a Government pass authorising him to leave the Protectorate in search of work.
5. The Association will provide free of cost necessary transport, shelter, and food on the road to the Rand, and will also be responsible for their safe conduct and general welfare.
6. The Association will guarantee that two-thirds of the wages earned by Nyasaland pass natives will be paid out to the natives when they return to Nyasaland on completion of contract. The remaining one-third will be paid to them on the Rand.
7. All pay due to any Nyasaland pass native who may die while working on the Rand will be remitted to Nyasaland for the relatives of the deceased.
8. Nyasaland natives will be supplied with good blankets on leaving, and at Salisbury will be provided with other suitable clothing before being entrained for Johannesburg.
9. On completion of contract Nyasaland natives will be repatriated. Necessary transport shelter and food will be provided. A certain sum will be deducted from the wages of the natives to cover cost of repatriation.

The Association are in a position to carry out all the above conditions, and I think Your Excellency will recognise that if we are allowed to carry on the work under some such scheme, we shall benefit the Protectorate and aid in the solving of the problem which is worrying South Africa. I cannot help thinking that the time must come when the Government will have to take steps to control the emigration from Nyasaland, and it seems to me that the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association are the proper people to relieve the Government of all the details for the proper conduct of the affair.

In conclusion, I trust Your Excellency will approve and sanction some such scheme or modification thereof as I have mentioned above. I venture to say that if the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association are allowed to *assist to their destina-*

tion all natives with passes, who of their own accord express their desire and intention of proceeding to the Rand, it will at once do away with endless complications which will arise in the future. I am confident that large numbers of Nyasaland natives will get to the Rand in any case. The attraction is too great, the difficulties of the journey are not insuperable, although great hardship will be entailed if they proceed in an irresponsible way. It seems to me that no legislation will prevent the men from going. If the Association is allowed to operate the Pass Law the whole business can be systematised and controlled. If the Association is forbidden to offer any assistance we can only stand on one side and watch thousands of natives stealing away, their identity lost, and their whereabouts unknown.

I have, &c.,
C. KNIPE,
District Manager,
Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, Limited.

Enclosure 2 in No. 61.

(Translation.)

GOVERNOR OF THE MOZAMBIQUE COMPANY, Beira, to ACTING GOVERNOR.

SIR, Beira, 4 January, 1908.

VERY often natives claiming to come from the territory under Your Excellency's administration present themselves before my Commissioner of Police and ask for permits to proceed to Lourenço Marques, Transvaal and other South African countries. As a rule these natives attach to their petitions somewhat confused documents given to them in several mining districts and after slight enquiries I allow such permits to be issued.

These cases are becoming now so frequent that they may be more or less taken as emigration which, I understood from the Protectorate's Annual Report Your Excellency were kind enough to send me, your Administration endeavours to restrain by applying the system of "passes" which none of such natives ever produced.

As my wish is to maintain all possible cordiality with the Administration represented by Your Excellency and to avoid, within the limits of this territory's laws, any infractions of the laws of the Protectorate, I beg to ask Your Excellency to inform me of the conditions under which natives are allowed to leave the Protectorate and what means are to be used in identifying them, which, as things stand now, may be considered very difficult.

I have, &c.,

No. 62.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR SOUTH AFRICA to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

(Received 29th February, 1908.)

MY LORD, High Commissioner's Office, Johannesburg, 10th February, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to enclose, for your information, a copy of the undermentioned documents on the subject of the establishment of a Government Labour Bureau in Southern Rhodesia to undertake the introduction, distribution, and supervision of native labourers from Central African territories north of the Zambesi.

I have, &c.,
SELBORNE,
High Commissioner.

SCHEDULE OF ENCLOSURES.

1. Despatch from Administrator, Southern Rhodesia. January 20, 1908.
2. Telegram from Administrator, Southern Rhodesia. January 22, 1908.
3. Telegram, No. 12, to Resident Commissioner, Salisbury. January 23, 1908.
4. Despatch to Resident Commissioner, Salisbury. February 7, 1908.

Enclosure 1 in No. 62.

ADMINISTRATOR, Southern Rhodesia, to HIGH COMMISSIONER.

MY LORD, Administrator's Office, Salisbury, 20th January, 1908.

REFERRING to the conversation which I understand took place at an interview accorded by Your Excellency to the Directors of the Company at Bulawayo in October last, I have the honour to state that the Company considers it desirable that this Administration should deal direct with the Administrations north of the Zambesi in regard to labour obtained from Central Africa, and should assume the responsibility for the due fulfilment of their contracts by employers. It, therefore, proposes to form a separate official department for this purpose, with which would be combined the general inspection of labour compounds now carried out by district officials of the Native Department, the recruiting and distribution of local and other labour offering remaining in the hands of the Labour Bureau as at present.

Although this proposal does not appear to come under the head of Native Administration as regulated by the Order in Council, the Company desires to know whether the proposal meets with Your Excellency's approval, and I shall be glad if I may be favoured with an expression of Your Excellency's views on the subject.

I have, &c.,
W. H. MILTON,
Administrator.

His Excellency the High Commissioner
The Right Honourable the Earl of Selborne, G.C.B.,
G.C.M.G., &c., &c., &c.

Enclosure 2 in No. 62.

ADMINISTRATOR, Southern Rhodesia, to HIGH COMMISSIONER, Johannesburg.

TELEGRAM.

January 22nd. Referring to the conversation which I understand took place at an interview accorded by Your Excellency to the Directors at Bulawayo in October I have the honour to state that the Company desires to establish an official department to undertake the introduction, distribution, and supervision of labour from north of the Zambesi. The Labour Bureau will continue to deal with other labour. Although this proposal does not appear to come under the head of Native Administration regulated by the Order in Council, the Company desires to know whether it meets with Your Excellency's approval. Despatch to above effect written 20th January, and I now telegraph as I have to-day received a cable from London stating that the Governor, Nyassaland, is prepared to send 1,000 natives down at once if Administration assumes direct responsibility without intervention of Labour Bureau.

Enclosure 3 in No. 62.

HIGH COMMISSIONER to RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, Salisbury.

TELEGRAM.

January 23rd. No. 12. Please communicate following to Administrator.

With reference to your telegram of January 22nd, I approve of your proposal fully regarding establishment of Government Labour Bureau and await your promised despatch.

Enclosure 4 in No. 62.

HIGH COMMISSIONER to RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, Salisbury.

SIR, High Commissioner's Office, Johannesburg, 7th February, 1908.

WITH reference to my telegram, No. 12, of January 23rd, and to the Administrator's despatch of January 20th, I have the honour to request that you will inform Sir William Milton that I am entirely in favour of the plan to undertake

the introduction, distribution, and supervision of native labourers from the Central African Territories north of the Zambesi.

2. The objections to a Government becoming the recruiting agency for natives from its own territory to work within its own territory outweigh the advantages of such a plan; but when the natives are recruited in one territory to work in another, there are no objections to outweigh the advantages, and the interests of the natives are best safeguarded by the matter being arranged between the two Governments concerned.

I have, &c.,
SELBORNE,
High Commissioner.

The Resident Commissioner
of Southern Rhodesia, Salisbury.

No. 63.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR SOUTH AFRICA to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

(Received 29th February, 1908.)

[*Answered by No.* 65.]

High Commissioner's Office, Johannesburg,
February 10, 1908.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your information, a copy of a telegram from the Resident Commissioner of Southern Rhodesia transmitting a message from the Administrator relative to the movement of natives through Southern Rhodesia for the purpose of obtaining, or fulfilling a contract for, employment beyond the limits of that territory, and embodying the draft of regulations to which, in terms of Section 9 (1) (*e*) of the "Native Pass Amendment Ordinance, 1904," I have been asked to give my approval, to control the movements and proceedings of such natives.

2. It was apparently intended that these regulations should be brought into operation immediately. But it was evident that, if the proposal to appoint Umtali, a town on the eastern border of Southern Rhodesia, as the place of entry were carried into effect, the regulations would interfere with a body of natives who—so it was stated—had been recruited in Portuguese territory along the upper Zambesi, *i.e.*, between Tete and Zumbo, on behalf of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, and who, having undergone medical examination at Fort Jameson, were then on their way to the Transvaal viâ Feira (near Zumbo) and Salisbury.

3. I had only just received the Resident Commissioner's telegram when the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association complained to me that some of these natives were being detained by the Southern Rhodesia Administration. I accordingly telegraphed to Colonel Chester-Master requesting him to inform the Administrator that the regulations were receiving my careful consideration, but that, in the meantime, I hardly thought it consonant with the recognised rules of inter-colonial comity that Southern Rhodesia should place obstacles in the way of the passage of these particular natives and urging that, in view of the fact that the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, when arranging their journey through Southern Rhodesian territory, had no reason to suppose that the Southern Rhodesia Administration would raise any objection, they should be allowed to proceed.

4. The view expressed by me was accepted by the Administrator, but, in consequence of a report that symptoms of sleeping sickness had been detected amongst the natives, they were further detained in Southern Rhodesia pending enquiry into the accuracy of the report. I consulted Transvaal Ministers in regard to the matter, and at their instance, requested that the suspected cases should undergo microscopical examination. The result of that examination showed that the reports made to the Administrator were incorrect, consequently the natives were permitted to continue their journey.

5. In regard to the regulations and the nomination of Umtali as the place of entry, both the Transvaal Government and the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association have protested that the geographical position of that town renders it

unsuitable for use as a transit station between Tete and the Transvaal, and that it, moreover, possesses a peculiar disadvantage in lying immediately opposite to the territories of the Mozambique Company in which, as your Lordship is aware, the recruitment of native labourers for employment in the Transvaal is not permitted; and they have urged that the natural route for natives recruited in Portuguese Zambesia is viâ Fort Jameson and Feira to Salisbury. The Witwatersrand Native Labour Association have also intimated that if the Feira-Salisbury route is closed to them, they will be compelled to arrange for the natives to proceed direct to Chinde and thence by sea.

6. In communicating these objections to the Southern Rhodesia Authorities, I stated that this was a matter which, in my opinion, the Southern Rhodesia Administration must settle for itself, but that if the Chinde route were adopted an important trade would be altogether lost to the Rhodesia Railways and to the local storekeepers. It has, however, become apparent that the people of Southern Rhodesia are strongly opposed to natives *en route* to the Transvaal being allowed to make the road journey from Feira to Salisbury, and the Administration hold the view that in consideration of this feeling, and also of the need for taking sanitary precautions, the traffic can only be permitted to pass through Umtali, whence it could proceed by rail and be strictly controlled.

7. There is no doubt that the difference between the two contending parties consists in the desire, on the one hand, of Southern Rhodesia to conserve her own labour supply, and on the other, of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association to encourage the Rhodesian natives to seek employment in the Transvaal. I think that there is much reason in the Rhodesian view, and that the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association are well advised in adopting, as they have now decided to do, the Chinde and sea route rather than persist in a policy which, if it were to prevail, would probably have no other effect than that of exacerbating the people of Southern Rhodesia.

8. During the course of the negotiations I received from the Transvaal Government, to whom the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association had also appealed, a minute strongly protesting against the action of the Southern Rhodesia authorities. I enclose a copy of this communication which, as soon as the detained natives had been released, I brought to the notice of the Administrator with certain criticisms of the proposed regulations made by the Transvaal Native Affairs Department, and others by my legal adviser. In addition to the suggested substitution of Feira for Umtali as the transit station for natives *en route* from Portuguese territory to the Transvaal, which I have noticed above, the Transvaal Native Affairs Department desire that it shall not be compulsory for gangs of natives to be accompanied by a white man, but that natives carrying written credentials from accepted recruiting agencies shall be recognised as being in charge of the gangs; they further suggest that vaccination should not be insisted upon, except in the case of real necessity, and that, in regard to Clause 5, the Administration should be empowered to refuse admission to the territory only in the case of natives suffering from an infectious or contagious disease. The legal adviser's amendments are only verbal, and do not involve any question of principle.

9. I will acquaint your Lordship with the Administrator's reply to the criticisms of the regulations when I receive it; but with the diversion of the traffic to the sea route, the matter ceases to be one of vital interest to the Transvaal Government or to the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association.

I have, &c.,
SELBORNE,
High Commissioner.

Enclosure 1 in No. 63.

RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, Southern Rhodesia, to HIGH COMMISSIONER, Johannesburg.

TELEGRAM.

January 3rd. No. 2. I have been requested by the Administrator to forward the following message to Your Excellency:—

Begins: "I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that an agent of Witwatersrand Native Labour Association has recently been in Salis-

bury for the purpose of arranging for the transit of natives said to be recruited in Portuguese territory to Johannesburg. It is understood that the intention is to bring the gangs into the territory at some point on the north-east border, and to march them through the native districts to Salisbury, where they are to be entrained; at a Conference held in Salisbury on December 17th, at which representatives of the two Chambers of Mines, the Small Workers and Tributors' Associations, Salisbury and Gwelo, the Agricultural Union, the Farmers' Associations of both Provinces, the Native Labour Bureau, and all the elected members of the Legislative Council were present, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—*Begins:* 'This meeting records its strongest objections on sanitary grounds to the proposal of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association to bring gangs of natives from territories beyond the Zambesi through Rhodesia to the Rand, and requests the Government to prevent any such passage through this country.' *Ends.* A strong deputation, which included all the elected members, called upon me next day to urge strongly upon the Administration that every possible step should be taken to prevent the passage of native labourers in the manner proposed; the Administration feels that in view of the practically unanimous opinion of the country on the subject it is bound to take action, and while it is not prepared at the present stage to prohibit the entry, it considers it expedient that the traffic should be governed by regulations for which Section 36 of the Pass Ordinance, 1904, makes provision. I, therefore, submit, for Your Excellency's approval, the following regulations:—It is proposed to appoint Umtali as the point which alone native labourers in transit may at present be introduced; regulations begin:—

"1. The Administration may from time to time by notice in the Gazette appoint the place or places at which gangs of native labourers in transit shall enter the territory, and on the issue of any such notice these regulations shall have effect; no persons shall be allowed to introduce natives in transit at any point other than those so appointed.

"2. No native labourers shall be allowed to enter the territory or to proceed on the journey from the place of entry unless they are in charge of some responsible person directly appointed by the agency, company, or person on whose behalf they have been recruited, such person will be required to produce the written permission of the Government of the country in which the natives have been recruited to their removal.

"3. Every native shall be subject to medical examination at the place of entry by a doctor appointed by the Administrator.

"4. The doctor may order the vaccination of natives where he considers such a course necessary or desirable.

"5. The Magistrate of the district, on the certificate of the doctor that any native is unfit by reason of disease or other cause to be allowed to pass through the territory, may order such native to be returned over the border within a time to be fixed in such order or his detention at the place of entry for further observation or attention prior to a decision.

"6. Natives allowed to pass through the territory shall be taken from the place of entry direct to the nearest railway station, and there entrained without unnecessary delay to a station beyond the borders of the territory.

"7. The Administrator may place a police or other officer in charge of native labourers while passing through the territory.

"8. All charges for medical examination, attendance and maintenance of native labourers included in the carrying out of these regulations shall be defrayed by the person in charge before the natives leave the place of entry.

"9. The penalties prescribed by Section 34 of the Native Pass Ordinance, 1902, shall apply to contraventions of these regulations." *Ends.*

Enclosure 2 in No. 63.

MINISTERS to GOVERNOR.

(Minute. No. 33.)

Prime Minister's Office, Pretoria, 16th January, 1908.

Information has just been received by Ministers to the effect that a gang of native labourers recruited by the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association in the Zambesi Valley within the Portuguese possessions, and which left last month by the Fort Jameson-Feira-Salisbury route under contract for the Witwatersrand Mines of the Transvaal, has been arrested, and detained in Southern Rhodesia by order of the Administration.

It is understood that these natives were being brought down under exactly the same arrangements and by the same route as Central African natives engaged for the mines in previous years were allowed to pass through, and as Ministers are not aware that any rules have recently been promulgated to regulate the transit of native labourers through Rhodesian territory, they desire, if the above information be correct, to protest in the strongest terms against the arbitrary action on the part of the Rhodesian Administration in preventing natives recruited in Portuguese territory from passing through Rhodesia, as such action directly affects the interests of this Colony and its main industry.

In the absence of any intimation of the intentions of the Rhodesian Administration to prevent the free passage of labour for the mines, Ministers feel that some explanation is due to this Government for the summary steps taken, and also that compensation can fairly be claimed by the parties interested for any loss occasioned by the delay and detention of the native labourers.

LOUIS BOTHA.

No. 64.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE to THE ACTING GOVERNOR OF THE NYASALAND PROTECTORATE.

(Sent 4.20 p.m., 2nd March, 1908.)

TELEGRAM.

2nd March. No. 5. Referring to your despatch of 20th November,* after consultation with Sharpe I approve of you, after ascertaining whether High Commissioner for South Africa agrees, entering into agreement with Milton for regulating existing labour traffic between Nyasaland and Southern Rhodesia on lines of your despatch. Final conclusion of agreement should be deferred until Sharpe's return.

In the meantime 1,000 may be allowed to proceed at once as an experiment. Term of service not to exceed one year. Half wages to be paid in Rhodesia, remainder to Nyasaland Government at the end of term, to be handed over to labourer on his return. Southern Rhodesia Government must satisfy you as to proper care in every respect of workers during their service and on journeys to and fro. Let it be clearly understood that such natives will be free to settle in Rhodesia if they so desire, and provided they make arrangements for support of wives and families to satisfaction of Governor, Nyasaland. If Governor is not satisfied that interests of labourer are sufficiently safeguarded it shall be incumbent on Rhodesian Government to repatriate labourer at the end of his term.—ELGIN.

No. 65.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE to THE GOVERNOR OF THE TRANSVAAL.

(Sent 11.40 a.m., 7th March, 1908.)

TELEGRAM.

[*Answered by No.* 66.]

7th March. No. 1. Your despatch of 20th January,† I regret that resumption

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* No. 56. † No. 60.

of recruiting Nyasaland cannot be authorised in existing circumstances. I anticipate that, if question is again raised when next recruiting season approaches, I should find it incumbent on me to make certain stipulations similar to those stated in my despatch of 28th September last.* In view of your despatch, 10th February,† it would appear that argument that natives will find their way to the Rand overland of their own accord and suffer privations if not looked after on the way, has lost much of its force.

Please communicate accordingly with Governor, Nyasaland.—ELGIN.

No. 66.

THE GOVERNOR OF THE TRANSVAAL to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

(Received 5.31 p.m., 10th March, 1908.)

TELEGRAM.

[*Answered by No.* 67.]

10th March. No. 1. I do not understand latter part of your telegram of 7th March, No. 1.‡ My despatch, 10th February,† referred entirely to organized gangs of natives recruited by the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, and passing through Rhodesia under supervision, whereas danger pointed out in my previous despatches as to recruiting in Nyasaland is that if organized recruiting is not allowed, individual natives may go south on their own account to look for work without any supervision, and suffer great hardships on the way. Such natives will cross the border anywhere, and will be travelling without passes, which is illegal, as it has always been, and I have no reason to suppose that existence of the Regulations enclosed in my despatch, 10th February,† will make any difference in the numbers so moving southwards. Before I communicate your telegram of 7th March, No. 1,‡ to my Ministers or to Governor, Nyasaland, do you want any change made in it, in view of these observations?—SELBORNE.

No. 67.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE to THE GOVERNOR OF THE TRANSVAAL.

(Sent 2.15 p.m., 12th March, 1908.)

TELEGRAM.

12th March. No. 1. It will be sufficient to communicate first two sentences of my telegram of 7th March, No. 1,‡ to your Ministers. I regret that last sentence did not convey my meaning more fully. As I understand, the position is that flow of labour to the south, hitherto sporadic, will be now regulated and retained for Southern Rhodesia under improved conditions; and further your despatch, 10th February,† shows that means will be taken to stop passage down of all organized gangs which were held to have acted as an incentive to labourers to proceed to the Rand on their own account. Sharpe, just before his departure, assured me that in the absence of recruiting in Nyasaland under Government auspices, no considerable number will proceed to the Rand overland.§—ELGIN.

No. 68.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE to THE GOVERNOR OF THE TRANSVAAL.

(Sent 6 p.m., 26th March, 1908.)

TELEGRAM.

26 March, No. 2. I desire to state briefly considerations present to my mind when I conveyed to you the decision contained in my telegram of 7th March,‡ as I am unwilling that your Ministers should suppose that that decision was not very carefully arrived at.

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* No. 41. † No. 63. ‡ No. 65.

§ COLONIAL OFFICE NOTE :—See also paragraph 4 of Enclosure 1 in No. 7.

It has been recognised in the past, both by His Majesty's Government and by the Transvaal authorities, that the continuance of such an excessive rate of mortality compared with the general rate as has occurred among the natives of British Central Africa when employed in the gold mines would render their further recruitment indefensible.

You will remember that five years ago, in 1903, the mine doctors made certain recommendations for improvements in the food and accommodation of the natives which, if carried out would, they held, bring down the rate of mortality to 40 per thousand, or even lower.* These improvements were largely carried into effect in the period during which His Majesty's late Government were directly responsible for Transvaal affairs. As a result the general rate of native mortality has diminished considerably during the five years 1903 to 1907, the reductions being, according to the figures given by your Ministers, from 71.3 in 1903 to 33.95, the average for the first nine months of 1907.

Among the Chinese labourers a still lower average rate has prevailed, which may be accounted for on several grounds, the main cause perhaps being that they were housed in newly-built compounds of the most approved type.

In the case of many of the old compounds some difficulty was experienced in securing that the recommendations of the mine doctors were fully carried out, and it is reasonable to expect that as native workers replace the Chinese in the new compounds, and when the whole of the accommodation is brought up to the same level of excellence, a still lower general native rate may be attained.

The rate of mortality among the British Central Africa natives, however, has been, on the whole, higher than that obtaining among natives from any other part of Africa excepting German South-West Africa.

It has been represented that, in default of organised recruiting approved by the Government, a large number of Central African natives will find their way to the Rand on their own account, and that thereby to the large mortality on the mines will be superadded a further large death-rate due to privations on the route. But His Majesty's Government are advised that no considerable number are likely to find their way to the Rand in this way. His Majesty's Government are further advised that the main exodus, and that which specially requires regulating, is to Southern Rhodesia, and an arrangement has now been agreed to by which the two Governments of Nyasaland and Southern Rhodesia will be responsible for ensuring the recruitment and employment of the natives under improved and proper conditions.

If further recruitment of British Central African natives for the Rand is to be permitted, the mining industry, which is able to control the conditions of employment, ought, in my opinion, to provide guarantees of sufficiently favourable conditions.

Your Ministers in their Minute of 29th November† appear to agree that this may be expected of the mines, though they point out certain difficulties in the way of accepting the terms stated in my despatch of 28th September.‡

The history of the progress of the industry during the last five years bears out the expectations formed by the mine doctors in 1903, and, moreover, shows that improved conditions for labour of all descriptions with a lower mortality from disease have been accompanied, not only by greater efficiency, but also by a reduction of working costs and by an increase in the volume of the available supply of native labour.—ELGIN.

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* See page 389 of Cd. 1897. † Enclosure in No. 54. ‡ No. 41.

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